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Russia lets ruble devalue 34%

By JUDITH INGRAM

MOSCOW (AP) — After spending billions of dollars over the past three months to prop up Russia's weak currency, the government gave up yesterday and let the ruble's value drop by up to 34 percent.

Russians have already been hit hard by the country's fiscal troubles, which have robbed many of their salaries for months.

The drop in the currency is an even harsher blow for rank-and-file consumers, as it will increase the prices of imports that account for a large percentage of Russian consumer goods, including groceries.

Russia's 1,500 banks will also suffer, and up to half are expected to go belly-up in the next few weeks.

The government-sanctioned drop in the currency is likewise expected to shake foreign investors, whose confidence in the government's ability to overcome the crisis has already been shrinking steadily. Prices on European markets dropped on the news that the government would let the ruble's lower

limit sink 33.7%, from 6.3 to 9.5 to the dollar — or from about 15.873 cents to 10.526 cents.

Prime Minister Sergei Kiriyenko insisted that the ruble's new lower limit "does not mean a devaluation of the ruble" — the step that government officials have sworn repeatedly they would not allow.

Nevertheless, the move was a concession of defeat in the one area where Russia's often painful economic reforms had yielded an achievement that financial analysts and consumers alike could feel: keeping the ruble steady and inflation low.

The Russian government blamed the difficult economic situation on the Asian financial crisis and a recent drop in the world price of oil, Russia's biggest export earner. Already, the government has introduced an austerity program to close the huge gap between government revenues and spending, and secured a \$22.6 billion bailout from international organizations led by the IMF. But sagging investor confidence hasn't improved.

See RUBLE, Page 2

It's getting cloudy

While mankind has spent much of this summer fathoming the apparent warming of the globe, it now would do well to brace for some chilling times in financial markets.

Financially, expanding the Russian currency's trading bands is a reasonable move, considering the dwindling foreign-currency reserves which have shadowed the Kremlin, and the burgeoning business sector, in the face of Boris Yeltsin's strong-ruble policy.

A weaker ruble means greater profits, and therefore increased activity, for Russian exporters, who could, in turn, funnel more foreign currency revenues into local coffers.

Economically, however, the de facto debt default that accompanied yesterday's currency readjustment looms ominously over Russia's vast domains, and in fact threatens the very stability of the post-Cold War world order.

Moscow's admission that it is incapable of repaying debts, because it has failed to efficiently collect a critical mass of taxes, completes a grim portrait of a landscape fraught with crime, both retail and wholesale, and dominated by governmental ineptitude. This must now be called by its real name: anarchy.

Russian history has often teetered between lawlessness and oppression, and some would say the same about the Russian character itself. Now, we must wonder whether Yeltsin's fragile democracy can weather the financial storms that evidently still await it. A host of prospective strongmen, whether of the socialist, fascist, or populist persuasions, will all be watching as Russians gauge the amount of warmth their government will manage — or fail — to create for them, come next winter.

See ANALYSIS, Page 2

\$65m. Generali settlement expected

By MARILYN HENRY

NEW YORK — The Italian insurance giant Generali was expected to announce yesterday in New York a \$65 million settlement of a lawsuit that claimed it failed to honor Jewish war-era policies.

It was not clear how the money would be divided if the settlement is approved by US District Judge Michael Mukasey in New York.

Generali, which owns the majority stake in Israel's Migdal insurance company, had contended that it was not liable for policies written in Central and Eastern Europe because its subsidiaries in those states had been nationalized after the war. It said it had paid policies that originated in Western Europe.

The original class-action lawsuit was against a dozen European insurance companies, including Generali. The others would be unaffected by the Generali settlement.

Last year, in a Knesset ceremony, Generali inaugurated a \$12 million fund for Nazi victims after MKs indicated that the \$320m. Migdal sale would be in jeopardy

unless the insurer honored war-era policies. The fund is administered by a committee headed by retired jurist Dov Levine.

Although advocates for survivors said \$12m. was "scandalously low," MKs Michael Kleiner, Avraham Ravitz and Avraham Herchson praised Generali.

"We realize this to be a fulfillment of Generali's public obligation in memory of Holocaust victims," they wrote in a July 9, 1997, letter. "We are pleased that the unfortunate misunderstandings have been cleared."

Executives at the Italian company said they had thought that was the end of the matter, because they had the endorsement of Israeli officials.

The American lawsuit, however, indicated that there is no single source that can authoritatively make a pact on behalf of all survivors.

A Generali source told *The Jerusalem Post* yesterday that an effort to settle the claims had been hampered by the competing factions of lawyers, Jewish organizations, 50 US state insurance commissions and different sets of claimants and heirs. The Knesset experience showed, he said, that there was no single authority in the Jewish community to address the issue.

See GENERALI, Page 2

Clinton testimony lasts hours

By PETE YOST

WASHINGTON (AP) — With the future course of his presidency at stake, President Bill Clinton underwent questioning before a grand jury yesterday about his relationship with Monica Lewinsky, as Americans awaited a signal of what lies ahead.

At press time Clinton had been testifying for more than four and a half hours.

The president was prepared by his lawyers to acknowledge an "inappropriate relationship" with the former White House intern and answer the inevitable questions about whether it was sexual and

Sex scandal will dog Clinton, Page 6

whether he sought to conceal it, advisers said.

The president began his testimony at 12:59 p.m. local time, deputy press secretary Joe Lockhart said.

"The president is confident as he goes into today's session," White House press secretary Mike McCurry said earlier in the day. "I wouldn't say he's exactly looking forward to it."

He added that Clinton was certain about the testimony he would give, and that it would be the truth.

Under questioning from Independent Counsel Kenneth Starr and his deputies, Clinton began his testimony in the White House Map Room, aides said. It

was carried live via closed-circuit television to the grand jurors at the US Courthouse.

The White House staff, cut off from the secretive legal preparations, was preparing for the possibility of a presidential address to the nation after his testimony.

After denying for seven months that he had had a sexual relationship with Lewinsky, any such admission was certain to prove painful, not only to his family but to the legions of supporters who vigorously defended him since January.

At issue are whether Clinton lied under oath in Paula Jones' sexual harassment lawsuit when he denied having sexual relations with Lewinsky, and whether he conspired with others to obstruct the lawsuit.

After yesterday's testimony, there will be more grand jury witnesses — maybe including a return appearance by Lewinsky. Then Starr's report. Then a congressional decision on whether to hold impeachment hearings.

"Starr has everything he needs for his final report except one piece of the jigsaw puzzle — Clinton's testimony," said New York University law professor Steve Gillers. "Starr will insert that testimony, draw conclusions as he deems useful, and say goodbye."

But the grand jury — a group of 23 citizens who will determine whether the evidence warrants further criminal proceedings — is scheduled to meet today and Thursday, as it has been doing.

See CLINTON, Page 2



A crowd gathers outside the White House yesterday while President Bill Clinton testifies inside over closed-circuit television. Insets: Clinton (left) and Independent Counsel Kenneth Starr. (AP)

Knesset panel to move on early elections bill

By MICHAEL YUDELMAN

MK Hanan Porat, chairman of the Knesset's Constitution, Legislation, and Law Committee, plans to convene the forum at the beginning of next month to debate the law for dissolving the Knesset and holding early elections.

Porat's made his decision following demands from MK Haim Ramon (Labor) to start preparing legislation for early elections despite the summer recess. Ramon backed his request with a petition signed by nine of the 15 committee members, which he handed to Porat (National Religious Party).

Ramon wrote in the petition that a government which has lost its Knesset majority cannot continue ruling under cover of a legislative recess.

Two coalition members on the committee — Alex Lubotzky of The Third Way and Benny Elon of Moledet — signed Ramon's petition, in addition to seven opposition members.

See KNESSET, Page 2

Egypt reportedly arrests Abu Nidal

BEIRUT and CAIRO (DPA) — Egyptian security forces arrested Palestinian radical Abu Nidal upon his arrival in Cairo, informed sources told Deutsche Presse-Agentur DPA yesterday.

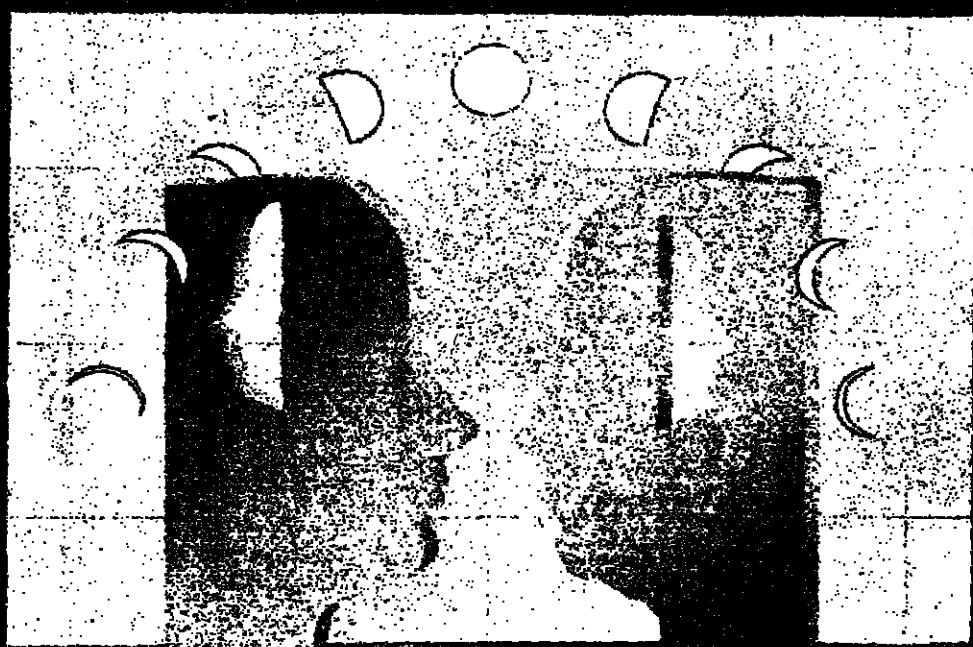
A diplomatic source in Beirut said Abu Nidal had been arrested in Cairo about 10 days ago while carrying a forged Tunisian passport.

The source claimed that Egyptian security had "detained the Palestinian terrorist Sabry el Banna," known by his code name of Abu Nidal.

The source said Abu Nidal "entered Egyptian territory about 10 days ago and was detained by Egyptian security authorities on the merit of local and international warrants" for his arrest for involvement in terrorist attacks.

See EGYPT, Page 2

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NEWS

in brief

Vanunu plans to sue Israel for kidnapping

Convicted spy Mordechai Vanunu plans to file a suit in a British court against Israel and several other states for their role in abducting him to Israel to stand trial for revealing nuclear secrets. This was revealed yesterday when the Beersheba District Court heard Vanunu's petition in which he complained that he is being prevented from consulting with his non-Israeli lawyers. The court also heard a second petition from Vanunu yesterday, but its contents were barred from publication. The judge said he would give his verdict at a future session.

Two more arrested in prison bribery case

Two more Prisons Service employees were arrested yesterday on suspicion of accepting bribes to improve specific prisoners' living conditions. A remand hearing is scheduled for today. A number of prison officials and prisoners have been questioned in the affair.

Former delinquents protest Beit Eitan's closure

Scores of people took part in a demonstration yesterday in Haifa's Bat Galim district against the threatened closure of Beit Eitan, which for the past 17 years has served as a center for helping to rehabilitate hundreds of delinquent teenagers.

The demonstration was organized by members of Dor Shalom as well as former residents at the center who went on to serve in the army and complete their high-school education. The center was established with the assistance of Agriculture Minister Rafael Eitan, when he was the chief of staff.

The land on which Beit Eitan stands in Bat Galim was sold four years ago to a private developer for the establishment of a homes and office complex and the center faces closure. Efforts to find an alternative site have failed so far. The Haifa Municipality said that the Housing Ministry is responsible for finding alternative accommodation for the center.

ULAI to inspect school safety

The Union of Local Authorities in Israel announced yesterday that it will conduct a comprehensive investigation into whether the nation's school buildings are safe. The investigation, which also will include preschools, is to begin this week and is expected to take five months.

Some 100 schools do not meet safety standards, Channel 2 reported yesterday.

Shmuel Abuav, head of the ULAI's education committee, said the government does not invest enough in maintaining school buildings.

Man stabs himself while Clinton testifies

A man jabbed himself in the neck with a screwdriver outside the White House yesterday, a National Park Police spokesman said. The 26-year-old man began yelling amid tourists and protesters gathered on the sidewalk, while inside the White House, President Bill Clinton was giving testimony in the Lewinsky investigation.

The man was yelling "something about 'Free Iraq.' The words, 'I'm going to kill myself if you don't do something about Iraq'—something like that," said a witness. At the urging of police, the man dropped the screwdriver and was then handcuffed, treated, and hospitalized for observation.

Soldiers in zone under 'ready to fire' orders

By DAVID RUDGE

Soldiers serving in the security zone have been issued with new orders — to carry loaded rifles ready for firing, the head of the IDF's Lebanese Liaison Unit, Brig.-Gen. Erez Gerstein, revealed last night.

The new instructions are a direct outcome of the inquiry into what was dubbed the "Soujoud fiasco," in which a Hizbullah gunman entered the Soujoud outpost on August 9 while it was manned by paratroopers and escaped alive.

Chief of General Staff Lt.-Gen. Shaul Mofaz dismissed the platoon commander and the two soldiers who were involved in the

incident. He also reprimanded three senior officers, the battalion and brigade commanders, and Gerstein himself for what Mofaz described as flaws in preparing the soldiers and insufficient involvement of the officers in the mission.

Gerstein said that one of the mistakes that occurred during the incident was that the soldiers did not have bullets in the chambers of their rifles.

Had this been the case, they would have been able to fire at the gunman straight away instead of wasting time cocking their weapons, said Gerstein.

This did not, however, absolve the soldiers involved, who should have killed the intruder. The

results of the encounter were unacceptable and should have been different, he said.

Gerstein said that for safety reasons he had not instructed the soldiers to keep their rifles loaded and ready for firing. This policy has now been changed, he said.

Gerstein spoke to reporters during a briefing on the northern border over the incident on Sunday evening in which South Lebanese Army troops captured a gunman and killed another.

The captured gunman said under questioning that he and his partner were members of the Lebanese Communist Party, which in the past had its own resistance arm, similar to that of Hizbullah, but

which has been quiet for the past few years.

One of the organization's most dramatic operations was the attempted assassination by a young woman, Shuha B'shara, in 1987 of SLA commander Gen. Antoine Lahad at his home in Marjayoun.

The organization was active in southern Lebanon until implementation of the Taif Accord, under which all militias with the singular exception of Hizbullah were disarmed and disbanded.

The clash on Sunday evening occurred in the Hatzbiyeh region, in the eastern sector of the security zone. Gerstein said SLA troops spotted the infiltrators and a unit

was sent to the scene to confront them.

A short-range gunfight ensued in which the SLA soldiers killed the commander of the two-man squad and captured the other with out suffering any casualties. Gerstein said the incident had demonstrated the operational capabilities of the SLA troops in an area of difficult rocky terrain.

Meanwhile, IAF warplanes yesterday struck at terrorist targets in the Jabal Soujoud region in the northeastern sector of south Lebanon.

The IDF Spokesman said the pilots reported accurate hits and that all the planes returned safely to their bases.

Albright: No change in policy on Iraq

By GEORGE GEDDA

WASHINGTON (AP) — US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright acknowledged yesterday she had argued against an announced UN inspection of suspected weapons sites in Iraq earlier this month but said her goal was to avoid a deep split in the UN Security Council on the issue.

Albright's critics have cited the cancellation of the planned inspection as evidence she had lost resolve to enforce the arms inspection program President Saddam Hussein had agreed to after the Gulf War.

On Friday, in response to published reports about her role in the cancellation, Albright said US policy had not changed and she renewed earlier threats of US attacks against Iraq.

But, in a column in Monday's edition of the *New York Times*, Albright said tactical reasons prompted her to believe that the surprise inspections planned recently by UNSCOM, the UN weapons inspection group, would be unwise.

A turning point came when Iraq, on Aug. 4, announced it was suspending all inspections. With this decision, Albright said "it was clear that Saddam Hussein had done something which even his backers in the Security Council could not defend."

After that decision, Albright said she consulted with UNSCOM chairman Richard Butler who, she wrote, "came to his own conclusion that that it was wiser to keep the focus on Iraq's open defiance of the Security Council" rather than insist on going ahead with the inspection.

If UNSCOM had gone ahead with the inspections, Albright wrote, "they would have been blocked anyway, but that would have allowed some in the Security Council to muddy the waters by claiming that UNSCOM had provoked Iraq."

She said the US goal is to get the Security Council to face up to its responsibilities to the both the

UN special commission and the International Atomic Energy Agency, both of which are responsible for monitoring Iraq's weapons-related activities.

"If the Council fails to persuade Saddam to resume cooperation, then we will have a free hand to use other means to support UNSCOM's mandate," she said.

"Let's be clear: what Saddam Hussein really wants is to have sanctions lifted while retaining his residual weapons of mass destruction capabilities. We will not allow him to achieve these objectives."

Reuters adds: The Security Council is considering telling UN weapons inspectors to continue with a "full range of activities" in Iraq, despite Baghdad's recent decision not to cooperate that has led to a temporary suspension of inspections, council sources said yesterday.

PA arrests suspects in Awadallah escape

By STEVE RODAN and MOHAMMED NAJIB

Palestinian security forces arrested several people accused of helping Hamas militant Imad Awadallah to flee his Jericho prison cell last week, as security agents raided the homes of his colleagues in the Ramallah area.

There were reports that a curfew the Palestinian Police imposed Sunday on Jericho, when the searches for Awadallah began, had been lifted yesterday, although some sources said there were still movement restrictions in parts of the town.

The search is being led by the Palestinian Preventive Security Service, headed by Col. Jibril Rajoub. He said Awadallah was helped in his escape by Palestinian drivers, who transported him from the middle of Jericho to an

unknown location.

"He got help from three drivers," he said yesterday. "They are all under arrest."

The PA security chief dismissed charges by Hamas that Awadallah disappeared after he was tortured. He said Awadallah was never tortured and pointed to a statement by Awadallah's wife, Shifa, that her husband escaped.

"These stories [of torture] are untrue, illogical, and not realistic, and aren't suitable to the principles of Islam," said Rajoub, who ruled out that Awadallah was helped by prison guards and said he believes the fugitive is still in Jericho. This is in contrast to assessments by other security officials that Awadallah is probably in the Ramallah area.

PA security sources said several dozen Hamas activists were arrested in the Ramallah area. A high Palestinian security official was quoted in *Al Quds* yesterday that Awadallah was probably helped by prison guards and from Hamas outside the jail. The source said the PA will have difficulty capturing Awadallah.

Awadallah has been accused of killing Hamas bombmaker Mohi Sharif in March in a feud within the Islamic movement over money and power. PA officials said Awadallah shot Sharif to death and then arranged for his workshop to be blown up — making it seem as if he had died in an accidental explosion.

A PA inquiry committee has completed its work in the Awadallah escape and recommended that his jailers be prosecuted. The inquiry, headed by PA West Bank police commander Brig. Gen. Haj Ismail Jabber, determined that the jailers were negligent in guarding Awadallah. One jailer has already been arrested, PA sources said.

Albright calls Arafat to discuss reviving peace process

By MOHAMMED NAJIB

Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat received a telephone call yesterday from US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, PA sources said. The call focused on efforts to revive the peace process and the Israeli government's failure to implement the signed accords with the PA, added the sources.

Arafat leaves today for an official visit to Egypt to meet with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak to discuss the most recent developments in the peace process. Their talks will focus on possible methods to move forward the peace process, in the wake of the failure of the attempts to persuade Israel to accept the US proposals, the sources added.

Swiss fund to give \$31m. to US Holocaust survivors

By VERENA DOBNIK

NEW YORK (AP) — A Swiss humanitarian fund will distribute more than \$31 million this fall to needy Holocaust survivors in the United States, New York's governor announced yesterday.

The money is part of the \$185 million Swiss Fund for Needy Victims of the Holocaust, which Switzerland established last year as a goodwill gesture toward survivors around the world.

Rolf Bloch, the fund's president, said at a news conference that the payments were not meant as restitution or to cover any specific claims, but rather "as a gesture of human relief and solidarity." The payments, expected to begin later this year, would be the first Swiss money given to Holocaust survivors in the United States as part of an effort to account for their suffering.

Gov. George Pataki, who was joined at the news conference by Sen. Alfonse D'Amato and Jacques Reverdin, Switzerland's consul

general in New York, said the state had played "a leadership role" in the effort to establish the fund.

The fund was created last year, when Switzerland was under severe pressure to settle charges that its banks were holding the assets of Holocaust victims and survivors.

"This is about moral restitution," said Israel Singer, general secretary of the World Jewish Congress. "The money is merely a material reflection of that." The payments are unrelated to last week's decision by Switzerland's two largest commercial banks to pay \$1.25 billion to settle a class-action lawsuit by Jewish groups and Holocaust survivors.

The New York-based World Jewish Restitution Organization will distribute the humanitarian funds, with help from the New York State Banking Department.

The \$31.4 million, which were contributed by Swiss private industry and banks, are to be divided equally among all of those who submit successful applications.

"The diplomatic source in Beirut, said Egypt had asked for tighter security for its embassies and diplomats in eight Arab countries as a precaution against possible reprisal attacks.

Abu Nidal's Fatah Revolutionary Council split from the PLO in the 1970s.

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Abu Nidal's Fatah Revolutionary Council split from the PLO in the 1970s.

KNESSET

Continued from Page 1

The bill to dissolve the Knesset and advance elections was passed in a preliminary reading during the Knesset's last session before the summer break.

The fact that a majority of the committee members support moving up elections surprised both Labor and Likud.

It had been generally assumed until now that Porat, as committee chairman, would delay the legislation process until the Knesset reconvenes. Now it seems unlikely Porat will be able to postpone the process, Labor sources said.

The Likud yesterday scoffed at Ramon's initiative.

MK Ruby Rivlin, the acting Likud whip, said everything Ramon does is intended to strengthen his political situation within Labor against party leader Ehud Barak.

"Ramon knows there is no chance of advancing the elections on the

basis of the legislation he has initiated, which will never pass the second and third reading in the Knesset," Rivlin said.

In an apparent attempt to delay the process to advance the elections, Rivlin also demanded the committee first debate the proposal to cancel direct elections for prime minister.

Porat agreed yesterday to hold such a debate.

RUBLE

Continued from Page 1

US Treasury Secretary Robert Rubin urged the Russian government to "move quickly to take actions to restore confidence, including the adoption of a careful and cooperative approach to dealing with its creditors and the full implementation of the... stabilization

program agreed with the IMF."

President Boris Yeltsin, who had cut short his vacation and returned to his country residence outside Moscow, decided Sunday to let the ruble sink during a meeting with Kiriyenko and Anatoly Chubais, the president's envoy to international lending organizations, presidential spokesman Sergei Yastrzhembsky said, according to the Interfax news agency.

After meeting yesterday with senior IMF negotiator John Odling-Smee, Chubais told reporters that he had held phone talks with the US Treasury over Russia's market meltdown, but couldn't assess the chances of direct aid from Washington. He said that the IMF was unlikely to accelerate the disbursement of Russia's loans or pledge additional loans to the government.

Start, including asking the House to change its rules to narrow access to the report to protect the confidentiality of sensitive evidence.

But leaders have signaled that if such a report comes in the next month or so, the committee will likely begin a preliminary review of the evidence and leave the momentous decisions about whether to begin impeachment proceedings until after the fall election.

Leaders of the committee already have made preliminary plans for handling a report from

ANALYSIS

Continued from Page 1

To further complicate matters, the ruble's woes come while Asia's major economies suffer from ailments not unlike Russia's. Japan's banking crisis also stems from governmental ineptitude. In this case, it was its failure to adequately regulate and supervise the shenanigans of a once respectable banking

industry which, it turns out, handed out some \$710 billion in bad debts. Neighboring economies, from Indonesia to Korea, have even less to boast about in terms of business accountability.

Elsewhere, Latin American interest rates are soaring — evidently a vote of no-confidence in local currencies and the governments which issue them — at a time of global financial uncertainty, not to say mayhem.

At a time like this, non-anarchists would be eager to see the world's least plagued economy offer an antithesis of solid, reliable and effective government. Unfortunately, that economy's leader is spending less time weighing yen and rubles, and more cleansing stains and misdeeds. It follows, that conditions are ripening for some sort of a trans-continental financial tempest.

GENERALI

Continued from Page 1

The Generali settlement is due less than a week after a \$1.25 billion pact was announced by the two main Swiss banks, UBS and Credit Suisse, to settle claims that it hoarded Jewish accounts from the Holocaust era.

Last year, at its headquarters in Trieste, Generali established a claims center that researched individual policies from Central and Eastern Europe whose owners and heirs were then directed to appeal for compensation from the governments of those states.

Some states, such as the Czech Republic, said it was possible that all insurance companies had been wrested from their control by the Nazis, and said Germany might be liable for the claims.

Claimants argued that Generali, the parent company, cannot shun its obligations to honor policies

written by its subsidiaries. They said Generali should pay the policies, then seek reimbursement from European capitals.

In an interview last April with the Post, Generali's vice director general Guido Pastorini hinted at a settlement.

"We are ready to put money on the table," he said, "but then that has to be the end of it."

Idm adds:

Bobby Brown, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's adviser on Diaspora affairs, called on Generali to publicize a list of the more than 330,000 policy holders so that survivors and victims' families can obtain compensation.

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Learning the hard way

Border policemen restrain a Palestinian student yesterday during a march to the Al-Ram checkpoint north of Jerusalem. The students were protesting the government's refusal to issue permits for Gaza students to attend universities in the West Bank. Channel 1 reported last night that the demonstration was organized by former Palestinian Authority higher education minister Hanan Ashrawi.

Tens of thousands

By STEVE RODAN and MARGOT DUDKE

Thousands of people gathered in the streets of Jerusalem yesterday to protest against the government's refusal to issue permits for Gaza students to attend universities in the West Bank.

The demonstration was organized by former Palestinian Authority higher education minister Hanan Ashrawi.

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סדרה מן הארץ

Car-theft barrier seen as future border

By MARGOT DUDKEVITCH

A plan to combat car theft by installing barriers and electronic devices on an 80-kilometer stretch of the Green Line drew mixed reviews yesterday.

Deputy Minister of Education Moshe Peled said the plan - drawn up by Minister of Internal Security Avigdor Kahalani and approved by the security cabinet on Sunday - is a waste of money. If security forces were deployed properly, they would prevent cars being stolen from Israel and taken to the territories, where they are stripped down and their parts sold, Peled said.

"When I heard the cabinet had approved the plan, I didn't know whether to laugh or cry," said Peled. He expressed

amazement that Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu, Minister of National Infrastructure Ariel Sharon, and Minister of Agriculture Rafael Eitan, all of whom know how to fight terror, support such a plan.

"I'm not against doing everything to prevent car theft," said Peled. "I would like to remind everyone that Arab terror started with groups of Palestinians from Gaza and Judea and Samaria stealing agricultural equipment and moved on to murder."

The approval of such a plan, Peled stressed, would give the Palestinians false hopes that the barrier would become the future border.

Eitan, who fully supports the plan, said in an interview on Israel Radio that the police plan offers a

solution to the rise in car theft and would hamper those seeking to steal cars from Israel.

Sharon said on Israel Radio that he rejects charges the barrier would be perceived as establishing a border along the Green Line.

But he said later on Channel 1 that, "You can't base a defense against infiltrations only on a fence."

Meanwhile, Sharon Ben-Yosef, in charge of security at the settlement of Matan near Kalkilya, said the Defense Ministry and the IDF had erected a 1.3 kilometer barrier outside the 600-family community.

He stressed, however, that the barrier, which separates Matan from the Arab village of Hable, is not effective on its own without posted guards and patrols.

"Kahalani's plan will only partially address the situation and patrols and guards must also be incorporated in order to deter thieves," he said.

The human rights organization B'tselem issued a statement declaring that Kahalani's plan does not deal with the root of the problem: the economic difficulties suffered by residents of the territories because of government policy and continued Israeli occupation.

The organization charged that government policy prevents development and neglects the residents' economic needs.

Mossy Raz of Peace Now, however, said he welcomes the plan if it means that the barriers would eventually be defined as a border between the Palestinians and Israel.



Long lines at free Jubilee Exhibition

Crowds of people wander through the Jubilee Exhibition at the Tel Aviv Fair Grounds yesterday, a day after the NIS 25 entrance fee was eliminated. By 8:30 last night, more than 20,000 visitors had arrived and more were still coming. Since the exhibition opened on August 4, an average of 6,600 had come each night. Some said they had been planning to come despite the fee, but many more were represented by a grandmother from Netanya who said, "If I'd had to pay, I might have thought twice."

(Text: Helen Kaye; photo: Yael Somekh/Israel Sun)

Tensions high over rules for Joseph's Tomb

By STEVE RODAN and MARGOT DUDKEVITCH

Palestinian Authority officials in Nablus are raising tension at Joseph's Tomb and closing the site in an effort to stop yeshiva students from staying there overnight, a senior defense source said yesterday.

The source said the issue of staying overnight is not detailed in any agreement between Israel and the PA.

"This is something that was set over time," the source said. "The PA wants to stop this."

The source said PA leaders apparently do not want a confrontation with Israel over Joseph's Tomb. The source termed the tensions a regional issue being handled by PA officials in the Nablus area.

Yesterday, Palestinian Police continued to prevent entry into the tomb, causing some thirty yeshiva students to remain in the compound since last Thursday.

Palestinians are concerned that the tomb is being reinforced as a bastion of militant settler activity in their midst. The yeshiva students are ultra-nationalists.

The source said Palestinian militants in Nablus appear intent on

highlighting the presence of the yeshiva in the PA-ruled city as a way to score political points against the authorities. He said the PA might be swept into a race with opposition elements over who is more capable of confronting Israeli settlers.

"They're climbing a tall tree," the source said. "The question is how they are going to climb down from it."

The Palestinians' actions were in response to a recent order given by OC Central Command Maj.-Gen. Moshe Yehonon. He declared he would allow members of the families of the two slain Od Yosef Chai Yeshiva students in Yitzhar two weeks ago to enter the compound and pray and remain there at night during the seven day mourning period and a subsequent period.

The Palestinians claimed that Yehonon's decision was a blatant violation of the Oslo Accord. The IDF Spokesman said the Palestinians allowed food and beverages to be taken into the compound two to three times a day and allowed those inside the compound to leave but refused entry.

Eli Rosenfeld, director of the yeshiva, said he was in constant touch with those left inside the compound and praised the IDF for allowing worshippers to remain in

the compound during the night.

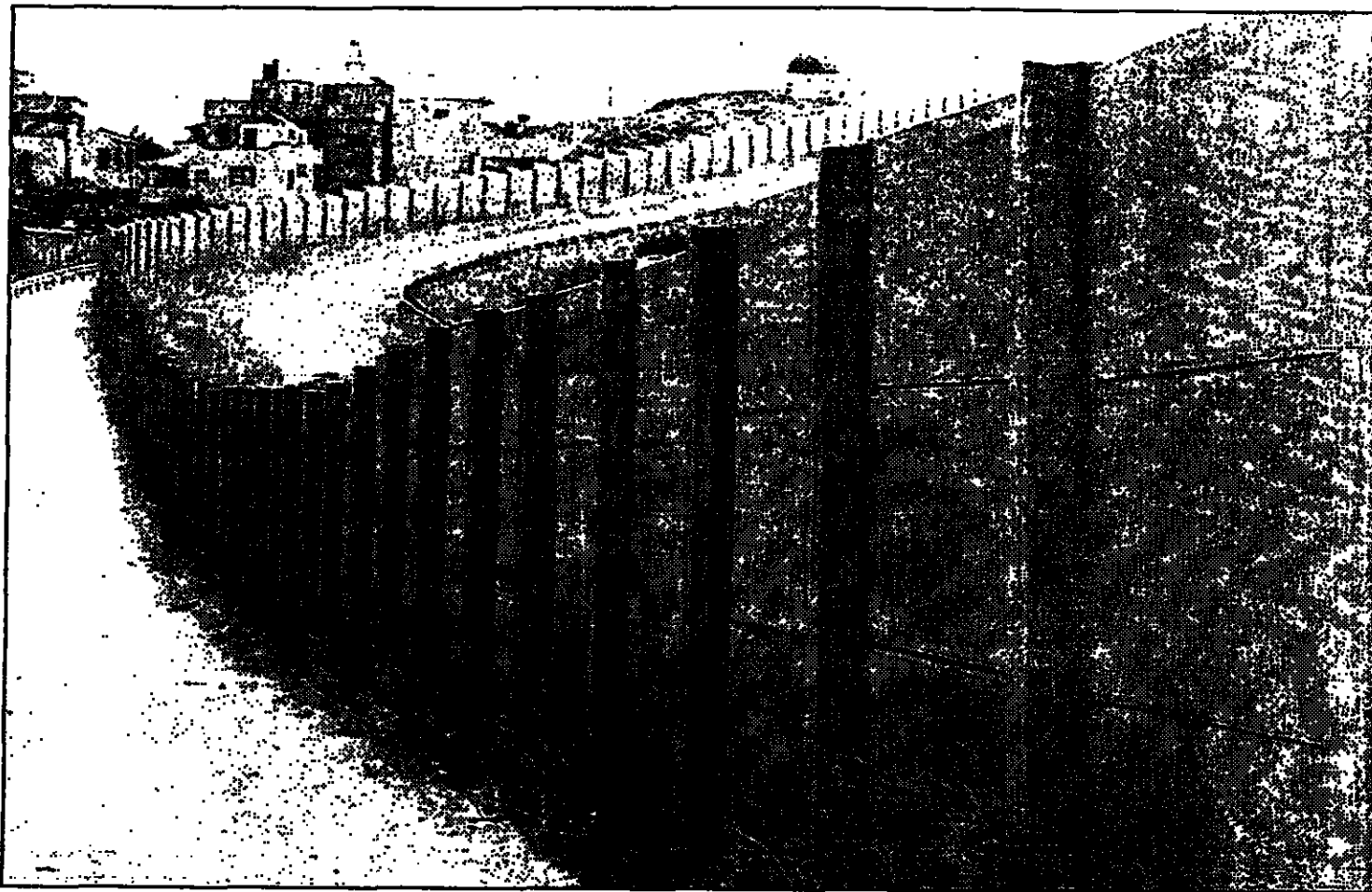
Speaking on Arutz 7 Rosenfeld called the Palestinian actions "blatant PA provocation and Oslo violation."

Yehuda Liebman of Yitzhar declared that Yehonon's decision was aimed at correcting the situation that had been ignored and neglected in the past. Liebman said a pregnant woman was among the worshippers left in the compound and that he hoped the IDF would deal with the situation and continue to stand firmly.

"It is inconceivable that the Palestinians deny freedom of access to a holy site," he added. While negotiations between the sides continue, the IDF Spokesman said, Yehonon is seeking to restore the status quo and hopes to put an end to the rough way Palestinian Police searched those entering the compound in the past.

MK Hanan Porat (NRP) called on Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu and Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai to deal with the situation immediately.

Speaking to reporters at Psagot yesterday afternoon, Mordechai said he hoped the problems would be solved soon as discussions between Yehonon and the Palestinians continued.



This 1.3-kilometer barrier of reinforced concrete, erected recently by the Defense Ministry, separates the settlement of Matan near Kalkilya from the Arab village of Hable.

(Yael Somekh/Israel Sun)

PM: No change in gov't's Golan policy

By LIAT COLLINS

Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu, at the outset of a holiday in Tiberias, told reporters that the government's policy on the Golan Heights remains consistent.

He said he did not intend to repudiate Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai for his comments to the German weekly Focus.

"Our stand on the necessity of the Golan Heights to Israel's security has not changed," Netanyahu said. "Our policy is consistent and the defense minister is partner to it."

The prime minister's political adviser Uzi Arad, however, told Israel Radio that the clarified formula which Mordechai presented of the scope of any withdrawal on the Golan Heights reflecting the extent of security "is logical." He said he had raised it at a closed symposium on ways of furthering the negotiations with Syria which took place in Texas two months ago.

Arad said the meeting was attended by Israeli, European and American academics as well as Arabs, although no Syrians were there. The Israeli panel comprised Arad, Itamar Rabinovich and Uri Saguy.

Arad said several formulas were examined and he offered this one "as an example of one approach which exists." He stressed this was not an official policy however. He said the formula is different from Yitzhak Rabin's which, was that the extent of the withdrawal should reflect the extent of the peace.

"The strong emphasis [in this

formula] is on security aspects, whereas in the previous government there was a strong emphasis on the components of the peace such as economic and other types of cooperation."

Meanwhile, Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk Shara yesterday told a Lebanese television station that Damascus is not seeking war and that "war is undesirable" and unnecessary in view of the peace process which could be realized.

National Infrastructure Minister Ariel Sharon told reporters, "Any idea which would put the Syrians on the shores of the Kinneret is unacceptable." He said it is important to speak and hold negotiations, but this requires extreme caution as it is impossible to predict future developments in Syria.

"[We] must be very, very careful not to take steps which would put us in a difficult situation regarding water [sources] and Israel's security, to say nothing of the fact that the Knesset in the past legislated a law under which the Golan Heights is an inseparable part of Israel."

Internal Security Minister Avigdor Kahalani (Third Way) noted that the government's basic guidelines establish that Israel will remain on the Golan Heights even in a time of peace "and that's what's important." He said as long as ministers like him are in the government, he is not concerned. "The minute someone tries to pull in a different direction, I'll pull on the reins."

MK Uzi Landau (Likud), chairman of the Knesset Foreign Affairs

and Defense Committee, criticized Mordechai for his statements without mentioning him by name.

"The independent remarks by senior officials and ministers on willingness for concessions with Syria are the mistake of the politically inexperienced or those who lack military experience," Landau said. "One should learn from the Arabs how to carry out negotiations. None of them volunteers concessions before the start of the negotiations."

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Lau condemns crosses at Auschwitz

By AMY KLEIN and news agencies

Ashkenazi Chief Rabbi Yisrael Lau yesterday called on Poland's prime minister to remove the crosses erected near the Auschwitz death camp and prevent additional crosses from being placed there.

Last month, members of a Catholic workers' group erected more than 50 crosses — one of them three meters high — just outside the walls of Auschwitz.

Despite protests from international Jewish organizations and Poland's Roman Catholic leader, Cardinal Jozef Glemp, a different group called the Roman Catholic Faithful erected another five crosses near the camp last week. They reportedly said they intend to place 152 crosses near the fence to commemorate the 152 Catholic Nazi resisters murdered there.

The new crosses were placed near a large, eight-meter-high crucifix erected there several years ago to commemorate Polish-born Pope John Paul's 1979 mass.

At a meeting yesterday with Polish Ambassador Wojciech Adamiecki, Lau handed him a letter for Prime Minister Jerzy Buzek. In it, he asks the prime minister to convince concerned groups and individuals to remove the crosses, so it will become possible for Jewish worshippers to attend memorial services there.

The crosses tend to turn the site into a Christian graveyard, Lau

wrote, and offend the religious identity of the victims there.

Lau also enclosed the testimony of Krystyn Olszewski, a Polish Christian imprisoned at Auschwitz, who said the crosses were erected in the very place where children were burned alive in the camp.

Not only should Poland remove the crosses, Lau wrote, but he asked Buzek to establish a memorial to commemorate the children who were burned alive. More than one million people were murdered at Auschwitz during the war, 90 percent of them Jews.

The chief rabbi will also send a similar letter to the pope, when he meets this morning with a delegation from Rome. Lau hopes that if the pope condemns the crosses at Auschwitz, they will be removed.

Adamiecki said that fringe groups are responsible for the crosses, and that he hopes the Polish government will settle the dispute in a way that will satisfy "all the concerned parties."

A survey conducted by Poland's Demoskop polling agency found yesterday that more than 70 percent of Poles want to keep the large cross associated with Pope John Paul standing — but 48 percent do not back the campaign to set up new crosses at the site.

The poll said 32 percent support the erection of new crosses, which the radicals say is to put pressure on the church and government to keep the papal cross.



Chief Rabbi Yisrael Lau meets yesterday with Polish Ambassador Wojciech Adamiecki in Jerusalem.

(Flash 90)

Vatican, Israel defuse Palestinian bishop crisis

The Vatican and Israel are close to ending a dispute over the appointment of a Palestinian bishop to Galilee, the prime minister's communications advisor David Bar-Ilan said yesterday.

"It's on its way to being resolved," Bar-Ilan said.

Earlier this month, Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu said he was unhappy with the nomination of Bishop Boutros Mouallem, a Palestinian refugee now serving as a bishop in Brazil, to become archbishop in Galilee.

Netanyahu said that Farouk Kaddoumi, head of the PLO's political department, and former Jerusalem Archbishop Hilarion Capucci, who had been convicted of smuggling weapons, had applied political pressure in favor of Mouallem.

The Vatican responded that the appointment of bishops in the Catholic Church was the "reserve of the Pope in the exercise of his supreme power."

Vatican deputy chief spokesman Father Ciro Benedettini also said there had been no interference in the nomination of Mouallem by the Greek Catholic Church, an Eastern rite branch of Catholicism which is loyal to Rome.

Rabbi David Rosen, director of the Israel office of the Anti-Defamation League, said yesterday an understanding had been reached that would allow Mouallem to take up his post.

"There was a threat [Israel] might not let him in," said Rosen, a negotiator of the Israel-Vatican accord signed nine months ago on the legal status of the Roman Catholic Church in the Jewish state.

"[There was] a great deal of information... concerning the Vatican's appointment and once the record had been set straight, the parties were able to reach a satisfactory understanding in accordance with their mutual commitments," he said.

A government source who asked not to be identified acknowledged the matter was virtually settled in contacts with the Vatican but said Israel still wanted assurances "the new bishop would not indulge in any political activity." (Reuters)

German Jews: Erect Holocaust memorial

BONN (Reuters) — A leading representative of Germany's Jewish community called yesterday for an end to delays over a proposed Holocaust memorial in central Berlin.

The chairman of the Central Council of Jews in Germany, Ignatz Bubis, said a decision on the memorial is being stalled by what he called flimsy arguments.

"We must have an honest answer — either one wants such a memorial or one does not," Bubis told Deutschlandfunk radio in an

interview.

He said the three groups who have a say in the final decision — the federal German government, the Berlin city government, and a private group which initiated the project — should be honest about what they want rather than hiding behind stalling tactics.

The only person representing one of the three groups who has clearly and publicly rejected the project in its current form is Berlin Mayor Eberhard Diepgen, Bubis said.

The memorial has the full back-

ing of Chancellor Helmut Kohl, but his primary challenger in September's general election, Social Democrat leader Gerhard Schroeder, has said Germany does not need the monument.

Schroeder backs statements made by party spokesman Michael Naumann in July. "The real memorials in Germany are the concentration camps, are Dachau and Bergen-Belsen... where people can remember and reflect and perhaps experience their personal shame," Naumann said in a radio interview.

Diepgen said at the weekend all the proposals for the monument are inappropriate. Kohl has said he wants a decision on the design this month, before the election.

Diepgen also said he objects to the proposed site for the monument, a strip where the Berlin Wall once stood and close to the landmark Brandenburg Gate, because it has no obvious connection to the Holocaust. The Berlin city government is due to discuss the memorial design decision on August 25.

Swiss bank to debate \$1.25b. deal Friday

ZURICH (Reuters) — The supervisory council of the Swiss central bank will meet on Friday to discuss last week's \$1.25 billion settlement between Swiss banks and Holocaust survivors, a bank spokesman said yesterday.

He declined to say if any decision would be taken at Friday's extraordinary meeting on whether the central bank should contribute to the settlement.

"That [the settlement] is certainly going to be part of the discussions... That will be the dominant topic," said the spokesman for the Swiss National Bank.

The August 12 deal in New York was reached by UBS AG and Credit

Suisse Group to settle Holocaust-era claims for assets that were deposited with the banks and never returned. The banks were facing lawsuits over dormant accounts and over stolen assets that they handled during World War II.

UBS and Credit Suisse, Switzerland's two biggest banks, have said they would like other firms and the central bank to contribute to the settlement, but the SNB has declined to say if it will do so.

The SNB has already donated 100 million Swiss francs (\$66.36m.) to a 270m. franc humanitarian fund set up by Swiss banks and industry last year to aid needy Holocaust victims and their families.

MKs debate reparations complaints

By LIAT COLLINS

The Knesset Law Committee, chaired by MK Hanan Porat (National Religious Party) met yesterday to discuss a report that Holocaust survivors who were confined to psychiatric institutions during the early years of the state have been deprived of German reparations, held by the Custodian of Absentee Property.

According to Ze'ev Kaplan, head of the Health Ministry's mental health department, there are currently just over 1,000 Holocaust survivor patients in psychiatric facilities. Survivor groups estimate the figure could be higher.

The report appeared in *Ma'ariv* earlier this month, and a public committee was established to investigate the matter.

The Custodian of Absentee Property, Shmuel Tsar, told the committee that his office has no interest in not allowing the money to be used by the patients. He rejected as "wicked" and "unfounded" allegations that his office is trying to save the money for the state to inherit. He said that if money belonging to a charge is left, every effort is made to try to find the legal heirs.

Report: Egypt permits press antisemitism

By STEVE RODAN

Egyptian leaders allow caricatures that portray Jews as Nazis who profit from the Holocaust and as the masterminds of terrorism around the world.

The report, obtained by The

Jerusalem Post, says Egyptian leaders allow caricatures that portray Jews as Nazis who profit from the Holocaust and as the masterminds of terrorism around the world.

"The leaders of the regime are aware of these antisemitic elements," the report says. "But under the pretext of freedom of the press they unfortunately refrain

from acting forcefully against this phenomenon."

One example cited in the report is an article on January 19, 1998, by Thawrat Abazeh in the government daily *Al-Ahram*.

"You find that the most hostile people to the believers [Muslims] are the Jews," the report quotes the article as saying.



Ruth Abraham of New York (center) poses yesterday with a photo of her parents, murdered in the Holocaust, at a press conference near Dresdner Bank headquarters in Frankfurt. Abraham hopes for a resolution to Holocaust claims against German banks, similar to the one recently achieved with the Swiss. At right is her daughter, Reha Sokolov; at left her German lawyer, Michael Wittl.

(AP)

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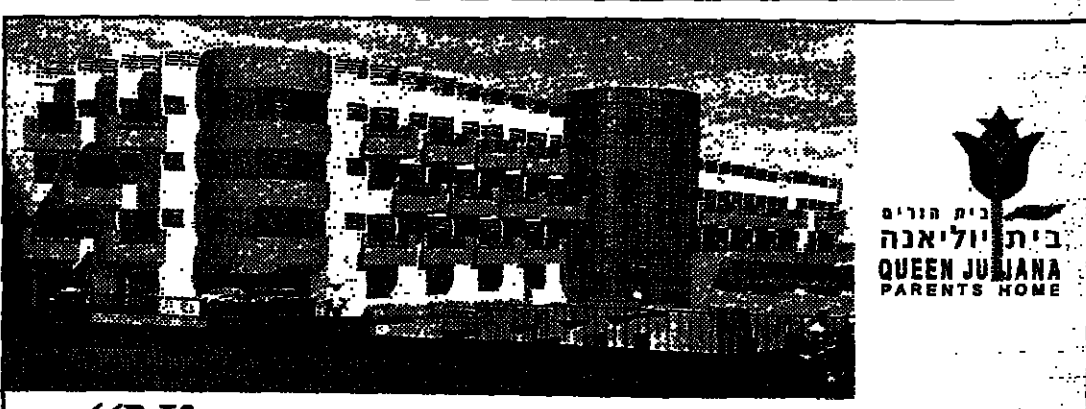
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AIDS predictions dismissed by Health Ministry

By JUDY SIEGEL

The head of the Health Ministry's AIDS steering committee has dismissed predictions by the new chairman of the Israel AIDS Task Force that there will be "25,000 HIV carriers and AIDS patients in the year 2005."

Dr. Zvi Ben-Yishai said the prediction, by Rommey Hassman, was a "completely fictional manipulation of statistics," and that except for a "blip" in the number of HIV carriers due to recent immigration from Ethiopia, infection rates remain stable.

Hassman, a former strategic planning and marketing consultant at a large public relations firm who was

diagnosed with AIDS two years ago, stated in a press release that there were 279 new HIV cases during the first seven months of this year — 50% more than during the same period in 1997.

If this trend continues, he said, there will be 428 new carriers for all of 1998 and "25,000 by the year 2005."

But Ben-Yishai argued that there was no basis for these extrapolations. The arrival of a number of HIV carriers among some 3,000 immigrants from Ethiopia who had been infected in their transit camp raised the figures.

"But since the Falash Mura camp is now closed, this will be the end of it, and you can't reach

any conclusions about the future based on this," Ben-Yishai declared. "This increased the rate of new cases to 36 a month, compared to fewer than 20 before their arrival, and it will return to this steady, low level."

Intensive information campaigns costing NIS 5 million a year are being held in the Ethiopian immigrant community, Ben-Yishai said.

He conceded that there is some HIV infection within the Ethiopian immigrant community, but "our prevention and control efforts are nearly on an individual basis and carriers are being given the AIDS cocktail of drugs that keeps the disease under control."

He added that Ethiopian women immigrants who become pregnant are encouraged to undergo blood tests, and if they're found to be HIV-positive, they're given the drug AZT to drastically reduce the risk of their babies being infected.

Commenting on a recent report by the Jerusalem Municipality that said the majority of customers of prostitutes in the city are either haredim or Arabs, Ben-Yishai said "the number of haredim we know of who are HIV carriers or have AIDS can be counted on the fingers of one hand."

However, he added, it is impossible to carry out information campaigns among this insular community, and if there are cases, it is like-

ly that they go abroad for treatment. On the other hand, significant educational efforts are going on in the Arab community, although he didn't have specific figures regarding carriers among them.

In general, he added, Israeli prostitutes "are very responsible. They're very fearful of being infected. I did a survey of dozens of Haifa prostitutes a few years ago and found that all of them had plenty of condoms in their pocketbooks, and none was found to be infected."

"However, in Tel Aviv, with the large foreign worker population, going to a prostitute is much more risky. It's a serious problem that hasn't been addressed well enough yet," Ben-Yishai said.



Protest wall

Some 50 demonstrators from the Green Action environmental group, women's organizations, and urban planners build a wall yesterday morning outside the Jerusalem home of Interior Minister Eli Suissa to protest against his reported plan to remove environmentalists from planning boards. The protesters said the wall is an example of what would happen if unsupervised construction is allowed and vowed not to let Suissa promote real estate interests at the public's expense. In a take-off on the biblical text, the sign reads, "A land flowing with asphalt and cement."

(Text: Lisa Collins; photo: Flash 90)

Health funds keep service cuts

By JUDY SIEGEL

The Meuhedet and Leumit health funds last night denied health ministry spokesman Yoram Malka's claim that they had reversed their decision to reduce services to their members.

While the health fund spokesmen did not term the reductions "sanctions" or even state outright that they are reductions, they conceded they are "tailoring their services to the health funds' financial abilities."

Health Minister Yehoshua Matza spent three hours meeting separately with heads of the four public health funds yesterday and afterwards his spokesman said they would call off the service reductions, which were announced last week.

Matza berated all the health fund directors for the reductions. Clalit has closed its night-time clinics and duty clinics. It has also cut physiotherapy and other paramedical care during the afternoon hours.

Meuhedet has shut all its clinics from noon to 4 p.m. and has cancelled its late afternoon care twice a week. It also now requires couples who want fertility treatments for having a second child to get approval from a committee.

Maccabi has closed all its facilities on Fridays, except for urgent cases. Leumit has closed its clinics on Monday and Wednesday afternoons and will close all clinics between noon and 4 p.m.

Matza told the insurers that they "had no authority" to reduce or close services, since within a few days, Treasury advance payments and allocations will be transferred to them. Any efficiencies, the minister said, must be carried out in coordination with the ministry.

"It's a shame," Matza said, "that you were dragged into a situation in which you cooperate among yourselves for action that doesn't serve the public."

Report: Most gas stations polluting water

By LIAT COLLINS

Some 88 percent of the country's gas stations do not meet the standards on groundwater pollution prevention and are in some cases already polluting the groundwater.

The figure was presented to Environment Minister Raphael Eitan and Director-General Nehama Ronen yesterday at a meeting of the ministry's water and rivers division.

The report is based on an inspection of 97 gas stations throughout the country, of which 12 met most of the standards, 26 met some, and 59 did not meet most.

Of the 500 public gas stations in the country and the 1,000 internal stations on kibbutzim, moshavim, and factories, hardly any meet the new standards that went into force at the end of last year that require a

special drainage system and the removal of petroleum waste in sealed containers.

Soil polluted by fuel is a serious source of groundwater pollution, both directly through seepage and also through the runoff of rainwater, and the costs of cleaning the fuel up are high. Water is not considered potable if tainted with only a small amount of fuel — a few micrograms per liter.

The report said that gas stations, particularly older ones, are a threat to groundwater supplies. In one case, the ground under a gas station in Binyamina was found to have a layer of fuel 46 centimeters thick floating on the groundwater.

Eitan called the problem "very serious" and called for extra enforcement of the regulations. He is to meet with fuel company representatives tomorrow.

Mar-Haim admits to tax evasion in plea bargain

By AMY KLEIN

The State Attorney's Office reached a settlement yesterday with Amos Mar-Haim, businessman and former deputy mayor of Jerusalem under Teddy Kollek, who is accused of failing to report income of over NIS 2 million.

In a plea bargain, Mar-Haim confessed to tax evasion and is to perform community service and pay a fine of between NIS 200,000 and NIS 500,000, if the deal is upheld by the Jerusalem Magistrate's Court.

Mar-Haim was arrested a year ago on suspicion of filing false tax returns and was released on bail.

Tax investigators said that between 1990-1995 Mar-Haim failed to report additional income from jobs as a board member, a lecturer, and writer.

Mar-Haim serves on the board of a number of public companies, including as deputy chairman of the Israel Corporation holding company.

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NEWS

in brief

Even to co-host Erev Hadash



Guela Even

Outgoing Mabat anchor Guela Even on the nightly news, has been named co-host, with Dan Margalit, of the news and current affairs program Erev Hadash, Channel 1 said yesterday. IBA head Uri Porat is said to have approached ETV to land the job for Even, and she is "on loan" for the one program. She will start on September 1. Helen Kaye

Driver in Motza accident was drunk

The driver who caused a three-car accident and injured 13 other people on the Jerusalem-Tel Aviv highway on Sunday night was drunk, police said yesterday.

At about 10 p.m. on Sunday, the 26-year-old from Jerusalem lost control in the Tel Aviv-bound lane of the curve at Motza. His van crashed through the divider and collided with another van from the opposite direction carrying a family of 11. The second van careened into a car carrying two passengers. Four of the 14 people injured are in serious condition, including the drunk driver. Amy Klein

Police to enforce driver 'escort' requirement

As of September 1, a notice will appear in the license of every new driver specifying the requirement for an "escort" for a period of two months, the Transport Ministry announced yesterday. The notice is designed to enable the police to detect new drivers who are not escorted.

Since August 2, an escort requirement has applied for all new drivers, in accordance with Knesset legislation. The escort must hold a license type suitable for the vehicle, with five years or more experience, and be above 24 years of age. Alternatively, the escort can have three years of driving experience, provided he is over 30. Itim

Wife-battering policeman remains on duty

A patrolman who is charged with beating his wife and threatening to kill her will continue serving in the Jerusalem District Police, a police committee decided yesterday. After an indictment was filed in the Jerusalem Magistrate's Court, the police committee recommended that the man's weaponry be taken from him, that he perform administrative duties only, and have no contact with the public. Itim

Motorcycle bandit to be released from jail

Ronnie Leibowitz, who stole NIS 350,000 from more than 20 banks around the country in 1990 and 1991, will be released from the Ma'asayahu Prison in two weeks, after serving seven years, the Prisons Authority decided yesterday. Leibowitz, who was referred to as the motorcycle bandit because he would make his getaway on a powerful motorcycle, was originally sentenced to 20 years' imprisonment. The Supreme Court reduced his sentence and President Ezer Weizman also commuted part of the sentence. Itim

Sarid appeals Shabbat closure of Tel Aviv Port

The agreement requiring businesses in the Tel Aviv Port to close on Shabbat and religious holidays is illegal, according to a petition a group headed by Meretz chairman Yossi Sarid submitted to the High Court of Justice yesterday. The petition asked for the cancellation of this section of the agreement among the Transport Ministry, the Government Companies Authority, and the Otzar Mifalei Yam company, which manages the port for the Transport Ministry. Itim

Netanyahu gives a lesson in manners

Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu, his wife Sara, and their children Yair and Avner, began their vacation yesterday with lunch at the Carmel Guesthouse in the North. The prime minister and his family, escorted by security personnel and followed by the press, were admitted through a rear door.

One of the diners walked up to Yair to give him a candy, but a security guard kept him away. Then the prime minister turned, took the sweet and handed it to Yair. "Say thank you," he told his son as reporters hovered nearby. Afterwards, the family proceeded to Tiberias for their holiday. Itim

Israeli killed, one survives in India death plunge

Daniel Gorman, 27, from Omer, was killed on Saturday in northern India, when the Jeep he was riding in ran over a cliff. His companion, Ya'acov Zukerman, saved himself by jumping from the vehicle. Gorman, a student at Ben-Gurion University, went to India several months ago. He met Zukerman there and the two of them rented a Jeep with a local driver.

While traveling on a mountain road on Saturday, Zukerman said he suddenly noticed the driver had dozed off and the Jeep was going over a precipice. He jumped out, but Gorman and the driver fell to their deaths. Gorman is the son of Prof. Daniel Gorman of Soroka Hospital in Beersheba. Itim

A Jerusalem landmark - RIMON RESTAURANT Grilled Meats and Middle Eastern cuisine. CAFE RIMON Dairy and Fish. Superb pastry. Indoor-outdoor seating. Glati Koshers Limehadrin. 4 Luntz St. (off Midrachov). Tel. 02-624 3712

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Provisionals turn Real

The Irish journalist and historian Tim Pat Coogan almost got caught by events when he wrote his definitive book *The IRA* in 1969.

He chose to end the history with a quote from the *New York Times*, which was commenting on a declaration by the IRA that it was ending its "campaign of resistance to British occupation."

"The original IRA and Sinn Féin came in like lions... and now they go out like lambs... They have been condemned by the most deadly of all judgments, public indifference... The Irish Republican Army belongs to history, and it belongs to better men in times that are gone... Let us put a wreath of red roses on their grave and move on."

Well, the IRA may have gone out like lambs, but by the time Coogan's book hit the bookshelves in June 1970 (with a hastily added epilogue on the new "provisional IRA"), they were back like saber-toothed tigers, as the Northern Ireland Catholic civil-rights movement ended in armed conflict.

The 1950s IRA gave way to the Provisional IRA (which then became simply the IRA.)

Metamorphosis

The IRA made itself a party to this year's Irish peace agreement, and now a group of former Provisionals has broken away to become the Real IRA. It has committed the worst bombing atrocity ever, killing 26 people and injuring over 100 in Omagh. The nightmare facing the peacekeepers and the Northern Irish people is that the Real IRA will in its turn become simply the IRA again - but an IRA that is outside the peace accords. Implicit in that metamorphosis of words is the return of the Protestant militant organizations to the streets, the return of a civil war that will be more deadly and more hopeless than the last.

"The IRA tradition is one of physical action and separatism," Coogan wrote, but he should have added "...and metamorphosis." Whenever the older versions of the IRA have been confronted with adopting an ideology, or a political platform, or a negotiating position, they have collapsed and out of the ruins has risen a new guardian of the old tradition Coogan defined.

It is a tradition which has formed and reformed since Wolf Tone in 1795 founded United Irishmen. (Tone, ironically, was a Protestant, but one who detested British rule over Ireland.)

Ambivalence

The United Irishmen gave way to ever more militant and republican Young Irishmen, Fenians, and the IRB - the Irish Republican Brotherhood. The IRB's hour of glory came in the Easter Rebellion of 1916 when a handful of them held Dublin

against the Empire and issued a proclamation of independence. Irish public attitudes to the IRA have varied from widespread indifference to outright hostility, but with a fair sprinkling of ambivalence because of the freedom-fighting role of the pre-independence organization.

The Old IRA, a vanishing ceremonial grouping of ancient veterans, sent an honor guard to my own father's funeral 15 years ago. He was proud of his teenage

action with a South Tipperary brigade, but he had utter contempt, and a rare string of names, for all post-independence IRA "thugs." So most of his generation's children inherited ambivalence - huge pride in the IRA fight for independence, shame over modern IRA terrorism.

There is hope for the future of the Irish peace process in the passing of any ambivalence. The fact that the car used in bombing Omagh was stolen across the border in the republic will deeply anger the Irish.

Bombing Omagh was a direct symbol of bombing the peace process, for unlike most towns in Northern Ireland, Omagh has a mixed 50-50 Catholic-Protestant population, and a harmonious one.

Rampage

The Real IRA is a direct enemy of the Belfast Agreement that has been approved by both populations of Ireland in definitive referendums, and by a Northern Ireland election. Therefore, the bombing should not affect the status of the IRA and Sinn Féin, its political wing, in the process.

Alas, there are people in the Protestant anti-peace camp who will insist that the labels real, provisional, and defunct are flags of convenience for an IRA (in huge letters) that is old, new, historic, monolithic, devious and dangerous.

The Real IRA is led by the former quartermaster (and arms-master) of the Provisionals, Mickey McKevitt. His companion is Bernadette Sands, the sister of Bobby Sands, who achieved mythical status among republicans when he died leading an IRA hunger strike in 1981.

Omagh may be the big disaster, but the Real IRA has been on the rampage against the peace process since January, bombing Portadown, Newtownhamilton and Banbridge, and making mortar attacks in Armagh and Belfast.

The good news among all the gloom is that the Real IRA is tiny, it seems desperately short of money, it is unlikely to attract funding, and it now has the determined and united rage of the British and Irish security forces directed against it.

It will have to be crushed swiftly and decisively before it really does become a real IRA.

Column One



Thomas O'Dwyer

Sex scandal will dog Clinton

Historians say the investigation of the president's relationship with former White House intern Monica S. Lewinsky has altered forever the way he will be remembered

By ELAINE S. POWICH, WILLIAM DOUGLAS & ELLEN YAN

Even before President Clinton gives his unprecedented grand jury testimony Monday, experts agree the scandal already has diminished his presidential legacy, and to a lesser extent, his policy agenda.

Historians say the investigation of his relationship with former White House intern Monica S. Lewinsky has altered forever the way he will be remembered and has reduced the powers and stature of the presidency as well. More immediately, this year's federal agenda, already scant, has been tempered by distractions at the White House.

"He had everything on the launching pad ready to go in his State of the Union message, and it simply hasn't been put into orbit," said Charles Jones, a former University of Wisconsin professor and presidential historian who now works at the Brookings Institution, a Washington think tank.

After a series of missteps early in his presidency, Clinton had won overwhelming re-election, successfully negotiated a five-year balanced-budget pact with Congress and was just starting to show "presidential muscle," he said.

"Most of the influence he had in 1996 and 1997 is absent now. It's replaced by preoccupation by how this matter is going to work out, preoccupation with grand jury testimony and distance between the policy-oriented White House staff and the lawyers and the president," Jones said.

Just before Clinton's historic grand jury testimony, that preoccupation has led his critics to charge that he has short-circuited his domestic agenda and become less effective as a leader, both in the United States and abroad.

But Clinton, even as the scandal

unfolded, responded with an ambitious public schedule, aggressive Democratic Party fund raising and showed a game public face on several ceremonial occasions including public memorial services for two slain Capitol Police officers and for the victims of terrorist bombings at two US embassies 10 days ago.

LEGAL experts also say that some of the legal battles Clinton's lawyers have waged and lost will reverberate for years to come. In particular, they say, future presidents will feel the impact of the Supreme Court decision in the Paula Corbin Jones case that allowed a sitting president to face a civil suit, they said. They also pointed to legal rulings that have stripped the president of legal advice from White House lawyers and advisers.

After the sixth year of a presidency, a president generally risks becoming an ineffective "lame duck," although sometimes politically difficult issues - such as revamping Social Security - are more likely to be accomplished in nonelection years. Republicans in Congress, however, appear to believe they are better off without presidential power in the bully pulpit.

"They want him weakened," said Larry Klayman, chairman of Judicial Watch, which has tracked presidential scandals. "They don't want him as a lame duck, they want him as a dead duck. If Clinton apologizes, it reduces him to zero - duck 'a' la orange."

White House spokesman Mike McCurry said last week that presidential aides were discussing whether to have Clinton make a statement to the nation after his grand jury testimony Monday. That statement, if any, might be carefully phrased to admit just enough to satisfy the public that

what they believe to be true, is true - that Clinton and Lewinsky had some kind of sexual relationship, and to get the issue behind the president.

A recent CNN/USA Today poll indicated that 73 percent of those responding believe that the president had sex with Lewinsky. The poll has a margin of error of plus or minus three percentage points.

Robert Dalleck, a presidential historian at Boston University said that belief alone is enough to tarnish a presidency.

"Seventy-four percent of the people in the country think he's lying about not having an affair with the woman," he said. "How can you take the moral high ground? It's like water dripping on a stone. It chips away at you."

The grand jury testimony is fraught with legal and political perils for the president. By agreeing to appear before the grand jury via closed-circuit video link, Clinton avoided a subpoena from independent counsel Kenneth W. Starr that likely would have led to a Supreme Court fight over whether he could be compelled to testify. If Clinton had chosen not to testify, it might have given the impression that he had something to hide.

As destructive as the past few months have been to the American political scene, Brookings Institution scholar Stephen Hess said the potential next step - congressional hearings after Starr files his report to Congress - would be even more so.

"If anyone thinks the last seven months have been bad, you haven't seen anything yet," Hess said. "It has been a terrible mistake to put this behavior, however egregious, in a criminal and legal setting."

"And now, to have it be forced into an open congressional hearing would be really destructive to pub-



Clinton kisses the White House dog Buddy upon his return from church Sunday. The president spent the day meeting with advisors about the grand jury testimony he was to give yesterday. (Reuters)

lic life in America. It diminishes both the accused and the accusers."

Congressional leaders are debating how to handle the Starr report,

should it come, including the possibility of limiting its distribution to the House Judiciary Committee in an attempt to keep it confidential. (Newsday)

The chronology of the Lewinsky-Clinton affair

The following is a chronology of some of the events in the White House scandal involving allegations that President Bill Clinton had a sexual affair with Monica Lewinsky and then pressured her and others to cover it up.

June 1995: Lewinsky begins work at the White House as an unpaid intern.

April 1996: Lewinsky begins working at the Pentagon where she meets Linda Tripp, who secretly taped telephone conversations in which Lewinsky said she had an affair with Clinton.

December 28, 1997: The last time Lewinsky reportedly visited the White House and one of the about three dozen times she visited after beginning her job at the Pentagon.

January 7, 1998: Lewinsky denies a sexual relationship with Clinton in an affidavit for the Paula Jones sexual harassment case.

January 12: Tripp turns over to prosecutors 20 hours of surreptitiously taped telephone conversations with Lewinsky reportedly featuring talk of an affair with Clinton.

January 16: Attorney General Janet Reno secretly grants independent counsel Kenneth Starr authority to investigate the Lewinsky relationship.

January 17: In a six-hour deposition for the Jones case, Clinton denies that he had a sexual relationship with Lewinsky.

January 17: Internet gossip columnist Matt Drudge posts the Lewinsky sex allegations on the Internet.

January 21: The Lewinsky allegations are published by major news media including the *Washington Post*, which reported that Starr is investigating the sex and perjury allegations.

January 26: Lewinsky's lawyer submits to investigator Starr a proffer outlining what would be

her testimony to the grand jury. January 26: Clinton says at the White House in a forceful denial that he never had sexual relations with "that woman" Lewinsky and that he never told anyone to lie about it.

January 27: Clinton's secretary Betty Currie testifies as first witness in Starr's probe of Lewinsky matter.

February 10-11: Lewinsky's mother, Marcia Lewis, testifies for more than six hours to grand jury.

March 5: Lewinsky's lawyer William Ginsburg argues before a federal judge that Starr's office had made and retracted an offer of immunity for Lewinsky in return for her testimony.

March 10: Former White House volunteer Kathleen Willey gives testimony before the grand jury.

March 15: Willey appears on national television and alleges Clinton made a pass at her and

groped her in a 1993 encounter at the White House.

April 1: Federal Judge Susan Webber Wright dismisses Jones's sexual harassment suit against Clinton.

April 29: News media disclose Federal Judge Norma Holloway Johnson's ruling that Lewinsky had no agreement with Starr that would give her immunity from prosecution.

May 15: Appeals court rejects Lewinsky claim that she had an immunity deal with Starr's office.

June 2: Lewinsky fires Ginsburg and hires veteran Washington lawyers Jacob Stein and Plato Cacheris; talks resume with Starr's prosecutors for immunity deal.

July 17: Starr's office issues subpoena for Clinton's testimony.

July 17: Three secret service agents testify before the grand jury, marking the first time in US history such personnel have been forced to testify before a grand

jury about their observations of a president's activities while guarding him.

July 23: President Clinton's top bodyguard Larry Cockell testifies before the grand jury.

July 28: Lewinsky gets deal for broad immunity from prosecution in exchange for her full testimony, as does her mother.

July 29: Clinton agrees to testify voluntarily to grand jury on Aug. 17: Starr's team withdraws subpoena.

July 31: Paula Jones asks appeals court in St. Louis to reinstate her sexual harassment case against Clinton.

August 6: Lewinsky testifies to grand jury. Sources close to the case say she testified that she had sex with Clinton and they discussed keeping the affair quiet but he never explicitly told her to lie about it.

August 17: Clinton expected to testify to the grand jury. (Reuters)

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150 מיליון

Report: North Korea hiding huge nuclear complex

NEW YORK (Reuters) - US intelligence agencies have detected a huge secret underground complex in North Korea that they believe is the centerpiece of an effort to revive the country's frozen nuclear weapons program. *The New York Times* reported yesterday.

The *Times* said that according to officials who have been briefed on the intelligence information, the finding has alarmed officials at the White House and the Pentagon.

They fear the complex may represent an effort to break a four-year-old agreement in which North Korea pledged to give up its nuclear weapons program in exchange for billions of dollars in Western aid, the newspaper said.

The finding also follows a string of provocations by the North, including missile sales to Pakistan and the incursion of a small North Korean submarine carrying nine commandos off the South Korean coast this year.

The North has said in recent months that the United States is reneging on its side of the agreement because Congress has failed to authorize tens of millions of dollars in fuel shipments for the North.

The shipments are the main American contribution to a \$6 bil-

lion program, under which South Korea, Japan and other nations are supposed to finance a major electric energy program as a quid pro quo for the North's abandonment of its ambitions to develop nuclear arms.

A senior administration official said the North had not yet technically violated that accord, called the Agreed Framework, because there is no evidence that Pyongyang has begun pouring cement for a new reactor or a reprocessing plant that would convert nuclear waste into bomb-grade plutonium. The accord explicitly bars that activity.

But spy satellites have extensively photographed a huge work site 50 kilometers northeast of Pyongyang, the nuclear center where, until the 1994 accord, the North is believed to have created enough plutonium to build six or more bombs.

Thousands of North Korean workers are swarming around the new site, burrowing into the mountainside, American officials said.

Other intelligence, which the officials would not describe, led the administration in recent weeks to warn important members of Congress and the South Korean government in classified briefings

that they believed the North intended to build a new reactor and reprocessing center under the mountain.

Intelligence estimates of how long it would take to complete the project ranged from two to six years, depending in part on how much outside help is received. *The New York Times* said South Korean officials played down the finding, officials said, because they feared undermining President Kim Dae-jung's "sunshine policy" toward North Korea, an effort to reopen aid and dialogue with the Stalinist government in Pyongyang.

"It's a very, very serious development," one American official told the *Times*, "to say nothing of incredibly stupid, because it endangers both the nuclear accord and humanitarian aid."

Other officials said they were clearly concerned that Congress was now less likely than ever to finance the fuel oil.

If Congress refused to fulfill the American commitment, the officials feared, that would in turn give the North an excuse to abandon the nuclear agreement officially and, perhaps, to expel inspectors from the International Atomic Energy Agency who are at Yongbyon.

Police arrest five suspects in Northern Ireland bombing

By KRISTIN GAZLAY

OMAGH, Northern Ireland (AP) - Police arrested five suspects at dawn yesterday in connection with the car bomb that killed 28 people and shattered hundreds of lives as it ripped through this religiously mixed town in Northern Ireland.

The suspects were arrested in two villages north and southeast of Omagh and taken to the main police center in Belfast, 70 miles to the east. Under Northern Ireland's anti-terrorism law, they could be questioned for up to a week before being charged or released.

Francis Mackey, leader of a group under suspicion in the bombing, today denied the organization was to blame, and said his 19-year-old son Shane was one of those arrested. Mackey is chairman of the 32 County Sovereignty Committee, which denies allegations it is affiliated with the "Real IRA," a group of IRA dissidents trying to wreck the province's April peace agreement.

British Prime Minister Tony Blair and his Irish counterpart, Bertie Ahern, emerged Sunday from an hour-long meeting in Belfast vowing to work together to hunt down the bombers - believed to belong to a renegade Irish Republican Army offshoot opposed to April's peace agreement.

"The purpose of that bombing was to destroy the work, destroy the hope and the agreement we built up," Blair said. "Our determination has got to be that these people will never win, and that democracy will triumph over evil." Meanwhile, a bomb threat today at Stormont, the center of British administration for Northern Ireland in east Belfast, caused the evacuation of staff. No injuries



Caroline Gibson, whose sister Esther was killed in Saturday's car bombing in Omagh, Northern Ireland, is comforted by a friend yesterday near the bomb site. (AP)

were reported and no bomb was found.

Each of the 2,000 residents of Omagh seemed to have a story to tell about Saturday's bombing, offered in flat tones of disbelief: a school where a child was in class next month; a father and son who no longer will enliven a neighbor-

hood; a shopkeeper who never again will greet customers with a ready smile.

"How does this town deal with this?" asked the Rev. Michael Keaveny of Omagh's Sacred Heart Catholic Church, outside the makeshift headquarters where the dead, wounded and missing are

being tracked. Market Street, still a scene of destruction, remained sealed off today. A mangled baby carriage was parked amid the rubble of a collapsing storefront, half-eaten meals were abandoned on the tables of one cafe, diapers were scattered pell-mell in the road.

Rebels say they advance on Kinshasa

KINSHASA (Reuters) - Rebels in the Democratic Republic of the Congo said yesterday they were pushing closer to Kinshasa, and President Laurent Kabila fled to Harare for talks with the defense ministers of Angola, Zimbabwe and Namibia.

Rebel commander Dieudonne Kabengele said frontline rebel forces had taken the town of Songololo after a brief fight late on Sunday night.

The fall of Songololo, if confirmed, would bring the rebels closer to Mbanza Nguvu, the last major town before Kinshasa and only about 150km. southwest of the capital.

"We are now in Songololo. We took it after a brief fight. This now consolidates our advance on Kinshasa," the rebel commander

said.

A government official in the capital said that Kabila, who is also defense minister, was traveling to Zimbabwe's capital Harare for talks. These follow his discussions in Angola on Sunday with its president, Eduardo dos Santos, and Namibia's President Sam Nujoma.

Western embassies negotiated with Kabila's administration yesterday for fresh evacuations of foreign nationals from Kinshasa by plane or river ferry.

Kabila accuses former allies Rwanda and Uganda, who helped him oust veteran dictator Mobutu Sese Seko in May 1997, of invading and fighting alongside ethnic Tutsi and other rebels who took up arms in the east on August 2.

"We are here to stay. Whatever

happens, the aggressors will fail,"

Kabila told state television on his return to the capital yesterday after several days in his southern home province of Katanga and his talks in Angola's capital Luanda.

"Naturally little Rwanda and Uganda will not swallow Congo. The people must be vigilant. We will arm them and 24 hours are decisive. It must be understood that victory will be ours. That is the message I have for my people," Kabila said.

Hundreds of foreign nationals left over the weekend on flights organized by former colonial power Belgium and other nations, and the US temporarily closed its embassy.

Diplomats said that Belgium was seeking permission to land one or possibly two flights at Kinshasa airport yesterday.

Fossett rescued after balloon goes down

By DAVE CARPENTER

SYDNEY, Australia (AP) - The schooner *Atlanta* picked up American millionaire-adventurer Steve Fossett yesterday from the Coral Sea, where he landed when his balloon went down in a storm during his fourth around-the-world attempt, authorities said.

Darren Curtis from The TV 7 Network in Australia, who was aboard a Royal Australian Air Force Hercules C-130 rescue plane, talked to Fossett via the plane's radio.

"He said he was caught in a giant thunderstorm with hail and lightning which actually ruptured his balloon. He fell 29,000 feet into the ocean," Curtis said. "He says when he hit the ocean his balloon capsule caught fire and he had to evacuate into a tiny life raft."

Fossett, from Chicago, still had at least another five days of travel before he was expected to reach South America, where he took off from Argentina, on August 7. He has also run marathons, climbed mountains, and raced in the Iditarod dog sled race in Alaska.

NAIROBI (AP) - FBI agents and Kenyan police questioned a suspect in Nairobi yesterday, hoping to find some trail to the terrorists who left 257 people dead and thousands injured in the two US embassy bombings in East Africa.

Although the FBI confirmed yesterday that it was questioning Mohammed Sadiq Odeh, the agency said he had not confessed or implicated anyone else in the Aug. 7 bombings of the US embassies in Kenya and Tanzania.

Odeh, who was arrested that same day at the airport in Karachi, Pakistan, after flying in from Nairobi, was returned to the Kenyan capital on Friday.

Meanwhile, a Kenyan newspaper reported yesterday that FBI agents had flown another suspect back to Kenya following his arrest in the United Arab Emirates. The US Embassy in Nairobi and Kenyan police both declined comment on that report.

Madeleine Albright left Washington yesterday for a one-day trip to Kenya and Tanzania to lend support to embassy workers and vow solidarity with the grief-stricken nations.

In Pakistan yesterday, most US Embassy personnel and their families were leaving and the other 6,700 Americans living in the country were urged to join them. The US State Department updated its "worldwide caution" for Americans, warning specifically against all travel to Pakistan.

FBI agents had flown to Pakistan to try to talk to Odeh, but one Pakistani government source reported that they were not allowed to question him there.

The *New York Times*, a leading Pakistani newspaper, quoted unnamed government sources as saying that Odeh confessed to planning the bombings and claimed the attack was sponsored by a wealthy Saudi, Osama bin Laden.

Bin Laden, who lives in Afghanistan, has been identified by US officials as a possible sus-

pect in the embassy bombings. They say bin Laden - who has been vocal in his hatred of the United States - is among the world's most militant sponsors of terrorism.

Odeh told Pakistani investigators that he was chosen because he is married to a woman from Kenya and is familiar with Nairobi. *The Washington Post* reported yesterday, quoting anonymous sources at Pakistani police and intelligence agencies.

The *Post* said Odeh, a 34-year-old Palestinian engineer who was born in Jordan, told investigators that six other conspirators slipped through the Karachi airport Aug. 7 and made it to Afghanistan, where they had been told they would be congratulated by bin Laden.

Newsweek magazine reported that investigators have found a 100-pound steel drive shaft believed to have belonged to the pickup truck that carried the bomb to the embassy in Nairobi.

The FBI would not comment on the *Newsweek* report.

Arguments end in trial of ex-apartheid president Botha

By PAUL HARRIS

GEORGE, South Africa (AP) - Lawyers for P. W. Botha contended during closing arguments yesterday that a legal summons from a body probing apartheid atrocities is "null and void" and the case against the former president should be dismissed.

Botha, 82, faces charges of ignoring a subpoena from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. If convicted he faces up to two years in jail or an unspecified fine.

On the last day of trial, defense lawyer Lappe Laubscher said technical faults in the commission's decision to ask Botha to testify meant the hard-line apartheid-era leader was under no obligation

to appear. Laubscher said the summons had instructed him to appear before the Truth Commission as a whole, whereas the hearing he was ordered to attend was being held only by a sub-division of the panel.

"He was subpoenaed to appear before the TRC, not the Human Rights Violation Committee. End of story," Laubscher said.

Botha claims the commission wants to humiliate him by forcing a public appearance after he has supplied it with more than 1,700 pages of written answers to commission questions.

Laubscher repeated allegations that Botha and Truth Commission chairman Desmond Tutu struck a

deal in 1996 allowing Botha to give written answers instead of oral testimony. Earlier in the trial Tutu denied any such agreement.

Commission lawyers wanted to quiz Botha on the role of the State Security Council, a shadowy security body he headed during the 1980s when a violent crackdown on anti-apartheid groups reached its peak.

During his trial Botha's defense team has been confronted with documents and witnesses alleging the council authorized the killing of black fighters.

Laubscher criticized the prosecution team for calling witnesses to apartheid atrocities, saying such evidence was irrelevant. A verdict is expected on Friday.

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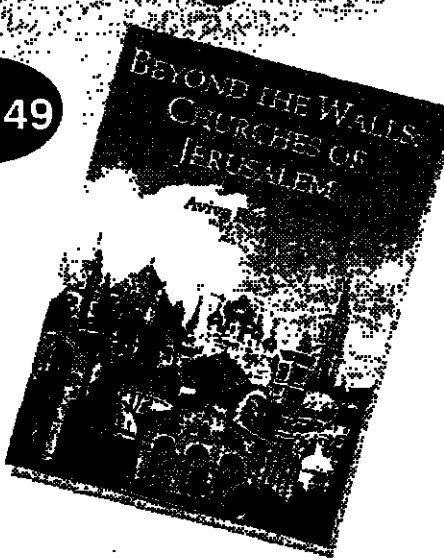
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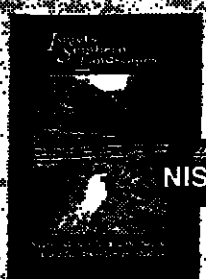
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Woodstock, '90s-style

A fan is tossed above the crowd while 'crowd surfing' on Sunday at the three-day music festival held on the original site of 1969's Woodstock Music and Arts Festival in Bethel, NY. (Reuters)

By DEELEN L. BROWN

CHICAGO — The youngest murder suspect in Chicago's history sat scribbling at the defense table. The first, an 8-year-old boy, colored with an orange crayon in a coloring book. The second, a 7-year-old boy, drew stick figures with a black magic marker on his lawyer's yellow legal pad. They seemed oblivious and sometimes bored by arguments that they fatally beat an 11-year-old girl, took her bike and left her body near a vacant lot.

As a prosecutor told a judge that "the girl was brutalized at their hands" and defense attorneys vehemently argued their innocence, the boys ate candy, spun in their chairs and traded colored magic markers to write "I love you" notes to their parents. As a psychiatrist testified about whether the boys are a danger to society, the 7-year-old, wearing a Chicago Bears T-shirt and shorts, put his head on his arm and fell asleep. He's so young that he is still missing his two front permanent teeth, it was his nap time.

The case of these children, who when standing barely reach the height of the gun bolsters of the deputies guarding them, has shocked Chicago and the nation. And in their impoverished South Side Chicago neighborhood, it has been met with disbelief — with a refusal to accept that two small boys who played on the streets could also have killed on them

Too little to kill?

without drawing attention, and with suspicion that police may have jumped to conclusions in their zeal to solve the case.

But the lawyers here have already moved on to another debate. The case of two murder suspects barely able to see over the defense table has raised questions about how to deal with murder defendants so young that no law has been written yet to tell the courts where and how to detain them. In Illinois, for instance, any suspect younger than 10 cannot be placed in a locked facility, neither before nor after a conviction.

When current laws were written, said Bob Benjamin, spokesman for the Cook County state's attorney's office, "it didn't contemplate youngsters in the single digits of age committing such a serious crime. Somehow, we have to address that."

The question has become, Benjamin said, "What does society do with you? It can't treat you like an adult. But it can't say to you, 'Go stand in a corner because you've been naughty.'"

In the past five years, cases of young killers have shocked the country: schoolboys opening fire on their classmates in Arkansas and Kentucky, gang members not yet out of grade school killing and being killed. But in Chicago, with its massive public housing projects, its condensed and contiguous areas of poverty, criminal experts say pathology seems to have infected the very young.

The city, the third largest in the country, has become infamous for a series of cases involving children accused of killing.

Police and prosecutors say the number of children accused of killing grows each year. Last year, 847 children under the age of 13 were sent to the Cook County Juvenile Court for crimes ranging from sex offenses to murder, said Catherine Ryan, chief of the juvenile justice bureau.

Police say that the boys, 7 and 8, admitted during a police interview that the 7-year-old boy threw a rock at Ryan Lasham Harris while she was riding her bike on July 27. The blow knocked her off balance and she fell, hitting her head again. Once Ryan fell, the 7-year-old, the police said, motioned to his friend and the two boys grabbed an arm and dragged the girl, who may have been unconscious, about 20 feet into bushes. In the overgrowth, they began to "touch her very softly," according to testimony.

Ryan Harris was found July 28 semi-nude. Her panties had been stuffed in her mouth. Leaves and grass had been stuffed in her nostrils. Police say she died of asphyxiation.

The boys, whose names cannot be released because they are juveniles, were detained by police August 9 after police said they changed their stories about what they knew about the girl's disappearance. The boys were named in a delinquency petition charging them with first-degree murder. On

August 10, Associate Judge Gerald T. Winicki found there was probable cause the boys might be involved and ordered a psychiatric evaluation. A psychiatrist and a psychologist found the boys not to be dangers to society, and Winicki wrestled last week with what to do with the boys while they await trial.

"The fact remains these two boys are charged with murder," the judge said. "The fact remains, according to Illinois law, these two boys can never be locked up regarding these charges."

Attorneys for the boys question whether they could verbalize their thoughts enough to make a confession. Did they understand they were waiving their rights when police questioned them without their parents or attorneys? And how could two boys, one weighing 56 pounds and the other less, have knocked a much taller, lanky 11-year-old girl from her bike in the middle of the day in the middle of a busy neighborhood and dragged her into the bushes?

"They are children. They are tiny," said Andre Grant, an attorney for the 8-year-old. "It took someone with power and strength to do what occurred to this young lady. They do not have the prowess or the strength to do what was done."

Activists, neighbors and attorneys for the boys say they believe a killer is still out there; they want police to keep looking.

(The Washington Post)

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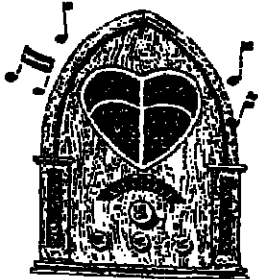
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Prince loses that loving feeling

In Tune



By David Brinn

First of all, I refuse to call him "The Artist." If Prince decided to change his name to an unpronounceable symbol, that's his problem.

NEW POWER SOUL
Prince &
New Power Generation
(Red Artz)

GODZILLA
Soundtrack
(NMC)

THE REAL BLONDE
Soundtrack
(Red Artz)

It's not like John Cougar reverting back to his original name Melencamp, or Jim McGuinn having a drug-induced religious experience and opting for Roger. He chose the name Prince, let him live with it. Unless he reconsiders and chooses an English name we can all understand, like Pretentious.

New Power Soul is the latest disc from Prince, who a couple of years ago fought long and hard with his label Warner Brothers to unshackle himself from his contract and attain artistic freedom. Was it all for this?

You get the impression from the snippets of funk and classic Prince sass that dot the disc that he could write hits in his sleep. But *New Power Soul* indicates that he's sleepwalking through this new phase of his career, and left to his own devices, he comes off as lazy and bloated.

The man who wrote the blueprint for rhythm-based rock and soul in the 1980s seems lost in the '90s, bewildered by hip-hop and vainly struggling to stay relevant. The token admissions to the hip-hop generation, like a few scratches and raps, are half-hearted and unconvincing.

When *New Power Soul* does occasionally catch fire, it only highlights the glaring mediocrity



Prince wrote the blueprint for rhythm-based rock and soul in the 1980s but he seems bewildered by the aesthetic of the 1990s.

of the majority of the disc.

Prince once celebrated the joys of sensuality by making love through music and in doing so, made some of the most striking, original music of the rock 'n' roll era. Now he seems self-satisfied with onanism.

GODZILLA may be a monstrous bomb on the silver screen, but its soundtrack is surprisingly full of quality buzz band acts that suggest the film has its heart in the right place.

The big hit on the radio is the

heavy-metal-meets-hip-hop battle royale between Puff Daddy and Jimmy Page on Led Zeppelin's warhorse "Come With Me." It's probably the best marriage of rock and rap since Aerosmith and Run DMC broke barriers with "Walk This Way."

But aside from that concession to the headbanging rappers, we also get a lot of intelligent rockers, like The Wallflowers doing a sterling rendition of David Bowie's "Heroes," and commendable tracks by modern rock faves like Ben Folds Five,

Michael Penn and Foo Fighters. Down beneath the gruff exterior, *Godzilla* is alive and well and listening to college radio.

ANOTHER soundtrack which takes a less traveled path than *Godzilla*'s crowd-pleasing sounds is the quirky musings found on the equally quirky comedy *The Real Blonde*. Containing delightful notes by the director Tom DiCillo explaining his reasons for each inclusion, the soundtrack is rightfully, in his words, "off kilter."

Utilizing mostly little-known young bands, DiCillo searched for music that had cinematic qualities and the results range from the slowed-down rap version of Aretha Franklin's "Respect" by Kool Moe Dee to the trippy acid ravings of Hooverphonic.

Toss in a lounge-lizard track and the first known surf record in existence by a 1950s group called The Fireballs, and you get, again in DiCillo's words, "an interesting combination of all sorts of stuff, just like the film."

It's a 'Wrap' for Inbal Pinto

DANCE ROUNDUP

By ORA BRAFMAN

The year 1998 turned out to be a very good year for young choreographer and dancer Inbal Pinto. *Wrapped*, her first full evening program that premiered at Suzanne

WRAPPED
By Inbal Pinto
Suzanne Dellal
August 9

Dellal, is a success. She has also won considerable international exposure lately, and more is yet to come.

Pinto created a magical evening and a wonderland on stage. Her gifted touch indicates a true sense for visual beauty and a warm humor, spiced with a dash of irony, and her naivete is quite sophisticated.

Part of the pleasure of watching her works derives from the feeling that her craft comes to her rather easily.

Wrapped contains some real gems, among them the opening scene, a duet that she performs with Michal Sharon. Both dance while sitting on a red bench, their movements perfectly synchronized, and their footwork seems to follow some intricate design, while they click the rhythms with their tongues.

Meanwhile gnomes and giants twirl in a mystical garden among tiny cypresses pruned in the shape of beaked-head seahorses. From a slit in the back, star-studded curtain comes a pair of twins who share one dress, their image fitting perfectly into the surrealistic environment.

It's been a long time since we had the pleasure of seeing such imaginative costumes, and such a comprehensive concept of stage design. Inbal Pinto certainly proved that she has turned out to be one of the more promising young choreographers around, and deserves great credit. The spirited work of the group of eight dancers also deserves praise.

THE local dance scene gained some extra spice with the arrival of Al Kuds, the duo of Mariano Weinstein and Emanuel Gat, who

joined forces couple of seasons ago.

They produced a collaborative work where dance and music rely heavily on an original text. While not a novel idea in itself, the guys of Al Kuds (Arabic for Jerusalem) managed to do it in a new way. Their creations produced an authentic voice of their own that is on the mark.

They successfully identified several current cultural and political issues, and dealt with them in a way that captured the local rhythm, sound and spirit of our times.

In *Gol*, a major part of the stage is taken up by a huge pile of electronic gear being operated on stage by sound designer Daniel (Snoopy) Baruch and light

GOL
By Al Kuds
Suzanne Dellal
July 28

designer Yifat Gat. The sound in *Gol* is harsh, sometimes offensively loud. Music, concrete sounds and text voiced in rap style compete for our attention with the intense movement on stage. It's impossible to notice and absorb all the cross signals that clutter the ears, the eyes and the mind.

Weinstein plays with words, using Hebrew, English, Spanish and pseudo-gibberish, and sometimes makes several language transitions in one made-up word or a phrase.

There is something subversive about the way he kneads the language. The puns, hidden meanings and wild associations turn the struggle to capture the elusive data into a most enjoyable hunting game. Even though the meaning of the verbal messages is rather evasive, the impact on the senses is quite distinct.

Emanuel Gat's movement has an animal quality, sometimes smooth, slow and intense like a tiger stalking a prey and at times, fast and precise as if he's jumping for the kill, and he is convincing in both.

Gol, although not as tight as their previous work, still has a captivating energy, and provides an opportunity for a worthwhile encounter with an alternative performance of two very talented men.

Songs Dvorak's mother taught him

Concert Roundup



One could hardly tell what was more impressive — the soloists, demonstrating not only technical dexterity, but also deep understanding of music and

variety of individual styles; the captivating Belcea Quartet with its fresh rendition of Beethoven's opus; the world premiere of Gil Shohat's emotional prayer — "Lacrimosa" (1998), commissioned especially for this occasion, or maybe the touching Dvorak piece "Songs My Mother Taught Me," performed by participants together with their tutors.

"We are trying to put people together through the music," the



Young violinists benefited from the Keshet Eilon master classes.

big experimental laboratory, where the teacher can include the reaction of the audience in the educational process, thus showing the student what goes over with the public and what does not.

Mintz says that very often the students remain "stuck" in their circumstances and surroundings, unable to fully release their instrument's sound. Feeling a moral obligation to stabilize and direct the young talent, Mintz nevertheless does not impose his ideas upon the students. Rather, he shows them "the light at the end of the tunnel," but leaves the important decisions in their hands. Maxim Reider

special flavor and, indeed, raison d'être.

The South Africans of the Pretorian Motheo Lutheran Church Choir made movement an infectious, integral part of their singing and the audience moved along with them as if hypnotized.

The University Choir de Los Andes from Colombia offered lively, exuberant samples of its local tradition, complete with electrifying ethnic drumming. The Hong Kong Oratorio Society presented charming Chinese pieces, both traditional and contemporary, though heavily and somewhat naively diluted by Western conventionalities.

The Bialystok Medical Academy Choir from Poland, medical professionals who nevertheless sang like experts, performed a fascinating selection of largely unknown Polish pieces, both ancient and modern.

The German Junges Vokalensemble Hannover performed an unpublished manuscript, the highly and profoundly disturbing *Sabbat Master* by the contemporary Lithuanian Vytautas Barkanskas, that reflected the horrors of war and oppression.

Among the Israeli, the Efroni children's choir was particularly enjoyable, displaying an uncommon standard of voice culture, refinement and good taste that could serve as a model for many local adult choirs. The Nazareth Basilica of the Annunciation choir sang with much sincerity, but some of its own liturgy could have been preferable to their Verdi selection.

The festive opening concert, on the other hand, was an appropriately ceremonial, formal and anemic affair. Only six of the guest choirs appeared to render only short pieces, divesting the event of its

international aspect.

The bulk of the program was a manifestation of local presence: Salamone de Rossi's *Songs of Solomon* that was given a pedantic, indifferent rendition by the Upper Galilee Choir conducted by Ron Zarmi. The choir also gave a premiere performance of Menahem Waisenberg's *Song of Comfort*. The piece's formal rigidity, amorphous melodic lines, uneventfulness and lack of imagination were depressing. Alto Mira Zakai, baritone Yaron Windmiller and the Kibbutz Choir conducted by Avner Itai did their best to inject some life into the slow proceedings.

Ury Eppstein

THE recorder, usually considered a soothing, calm, restrained instrument, sounded energetic, vivacious, sometimes even humorous as played by Reuvena Hod. Hod performed together with Baroque cellist Keren Motseri and harpsichordist Evgeni Lisogursky in a selection of Renaissance and Baroque pieces.

The show's musical variety came in pieces written in Italy, France, England and the Netherlands. Italian songfulness was represented by Corelli and Vercini, allowing the recorder to sing aria-like melodies in perfectly shaped phrases, complete with significant

BAROQUE TRIO
Reuvena Hod — recorder
Keren Motseri — Baroque cello
Evgeni Lisogursky — harpsichord
Lutheran Church of the Redeemer
August 8

breathing rests, emphatic accentuations, and occasional brilliant virtuoso feats.

French elegance, polished ornamentation and courtly dance lists were displayed by Jacques Martin Hotteterre and Nicolas Chedeville in a sonata attributed erroneously to Vivaldi. Four amusing pieces by the contemporary Richard Hill were allegedly devised to teach birds to sing, or, more likely, to teach a recorder player to warble on the soprano.

Lisogursky demonstrated a fine command of the harpsichord in Sweelinck's *Prelude Toccata* and Motseri surprised the audience by switching from the cello to singing English Renaissance melodies in a delightfully clear, pure and well-enunciated soprano that alternated pleasantly with Hod's recorder.

Ury Eppstein

All's Phair for rocker-turned-mom

By ROBERT HILBURN

Liz Phair's phone call from Austin, Texas, where the stylish singer-songwriter was scheduled to perform on the Lilith Fair tour, was three hours late. But she was eager to talk about her first album since she took a break three years ago to marry Jim Staskauskas, a Chicago film editor, and give birth to their son.

Even without the marriage, Phair might have called time-out for a while, because she felt overwhelmed by the attention after her debut album, 1993's *Exile in Guyville*, was named the best album of the year in the *Village Voice*'s annual poll of the US's pop critics.

As in her 1994 follow-up, *Whip-Smart*, Phair, 31, wowed us in *Guyville* with her youthful spitfire spirit — serving up deliciously crafted, highly melodic tales of sexual politics that juxtaposed lustful daydreams and sweet innocence.

Early in her liams, Phair felt she had left the pop-rock world for good. Eventually, however, she missed making music and she is returning to action with renewed enthusiasm. The album, *Whitechocolate-spaceegg*, reflects some of the same themes as before, but from a slightly older perspective.

Now she's a mother — "I love being a mom. [The baby's] the sweetest thing in the world" — but she still finds the lure of music irresistible.

"I just had that competitive urge

all over again. After the baby, you get very soft and cuddly and exhausted. After a while, you begin feeling this renewed energy and, all of a sudden I felt gung-ho, ready to take on the world."

She also feels more mature.

"I think I sound much more grown-up in a way. The issues that trouble me are a little more complex, a little less black-and-white."

Guyville and *Whip-Smart* had a lot to do with pointing fingers. Now you look at a larger picture, including what you may have contributed to the problem yourself.

If being a mother gives her a double identity, then it's not the first time she's experienced this feeling. She says she's used to "the double life of being ladylike and raunchy, the good girl and bad girl."

She says of the lyrics of the new disc's "Johnny Feelgood," in which it sounds as if the woman enjoys being beaten up: "It's not about an abusive relationship. It goes back to something I felt when I went to Oberlin College, which is this very sensitive, very bohemian place, where everyone is incredibly careful with everyone's feelings. At the end of four years, I was so sick of everyone pussyfooting around everyone else. There were all these guys who were so wimpy. It's like they'd go, 'Excuse me, would you mind terribly if I took this moment to, ah, kiss you?'"

"The thing with my lyrics has always been that I'm hyperbolic in them. I am dramatic in them. I take small experiences and I fictionalize the circumstances." (LA Times)

Correction

The Tall Poppy Theater's benefit production of *Two* will be performed at Tzavta Theater, 30 Ibn Gvirol, Tel Aviv on August 27 and

not as stated yesterday. The 8:30 p.m. performance will be preceded by a wine & cheese reception at 7:30 p.m. Tel: (03) 695-01567.

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master course's patron, maestro Shlomo Mintz, said. They really succeeded.

This concert was the result of three weeks of intensive work by 44 young violinists from all over the world, chosen from more than 300 applicants for their communicative skills, musicianship and technical accomplishment. They had honed their craft at Kibbutz Eilon, situated in the picturesque mountains of Western Galilee.

"We simply gave the pupils what they needed: good teachers and serene atmosphere in which they could relax after a year of learning and performances," said music director Izhak Rashkovski from the Royal College of Music in London.

Young musicians have nothing but praise for the overall atmosphere. As Tom Pigott-Smith from London put it, "It's a hard and competitive world but people seem to keep their heads here."

The faculty level was exceptionally high this summer, and included Israeli and international tutors, representing a wide range of experiences and techniques.

Mintz, who during the year does not teach on regular basis, comes to Eilon for the master classes, "to bring up the artists."

For him, an open master class is a

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A giant leap backward

Contrary to what one might expect, the Labor Party has apparently decided that its future lies in resembling the Likud as closely as possible. Both major parties, actually, are increasingly looking more like dinosaurs yearning for the past than the future, unable to cope with changes around them.

If imitation is the sincerest form of flattery, the Labor Party this week managed the equivalent of appearing to be at the head of the Likud adulation club. Labor functionaries, envious of their Likud counterparts who in November of last year managed to abolish the primaries in their party, are now well on their way to doing exactly the same thing.

To be sure, the Labor Party committee involved in this week's decision did not abolish party primaries outright. The most it was willing to do was to recommend modifying the primary elections for the party's list of Knesset candidates so that the party's central committee or convention takes part in them. Spokesmen for Labor took pains to point out that various alternatives are being considered for some hybrid system in which both the party's central committee and the rank-and-file party membership will have some role in selecting the candidates. But the truth is that everyone knows what the party functionaries really want. The small step taken by Labor committees this week is only a harbinger of a giant leap backward for Israeli democracy.

The Labor functionaries are motivated by exactly the same greed that fueled the Likud Central Committee's actions in abolishing primaries. The Likud hacks were simply less bashful about openly revealing their disregard for democracy and proper government functioning in their November convention, which some observers aptly described as "a celebration of political pornography."

Back before the primary system was instituted in Israel, when attaining a spot on the party's Knesset list required winning votes solely in the Central Committee, committee members were the constant objects of attention, consideration, and sometimes groveling and outright bribery by aspiring politicians. Potential candidates made sure to learn by heart the names of even distant relatives of as many central committee members as they could, going out of their way to do as many favors for them as they could. The grand prize for committee members was seeing politicians they personally supported attain the office of minister in the government. That was often translated into comfortable sinecures for powerful party functionaries in government-run institutions — at taxpayer expense, of course.

The primaries took all this away from the

party hacks. With the authority to select Knesset candidates taken from the Central Committee and granted to hundreds of thousands of registered party members, politicians moved to modern campaign methods aimed at mass audiences, chiefly by way of the media, and ignored the functionaries, much to their disgruntlement. The campaigns to abolish the primaries are no less than the party bureaucracies striking back.

Allied with the central committee members are the chairmen of the two large parties, Benjamin Netanyahu in the Likud and Ehud Barak in Labor. Both men, who command large blocs in their central committees, are attracted to the possibility of threatening Knesset members who exhibit too much independence for their tastes with removal from future election lists. This would give them a measure of control they could never have under the primary system. Barak is these days completing his image as a Netanyahu clone by mimicking Netanyahu's behavior in November, publicly claiming that he is opposed to abolishing the primaries, while his closest associates are furiously working precisely towards that end.

The frustration of the two large parties is understandable, given the large drops they have both experienced in Knesset seats in recent years. This drop is partly due to general changes in Israeli society and politics. The founding fathers of the political system here imported a Central European conception of politics. For the Israeli of the 1950s, whose youth summer camp, health insurance, sports association, daily newspaper, and in many cases job was determined by party affiliation, political parties represented entire life-styles and world-views. That world has long disappeared. The direct election of the prime minister, the general opening up of the media, and the blurring of differences between parties all clamoring to locate themselves in "the center" also accelerated the weakening of the party system.

But if the two major parties imagine they can return to yesterday simply by acting as if the clock can be turned back in their own internal deliberations, they are sadly mistaken. Today's Israeli is too worldly and sophisticated to be impressed by the Jurassic Park tactics of anachronistic and transparently greedy party hacks. The primaries gave hundreds of thousands of citizens the sense that they were directly participating in a fully democratic and modern political system. If that is taken away, it will only give further impetus to the search for a third party with a fresh, new, clean image that could emerge and upset the entire political balance that has existed here for at least the past 30 years. The central committees will only end up harming themselves.

OLEG 98



No more boom and bust

EVELYN GORDON

Last week's cabinet discussions on the 1999 budget provided a superb demonstration of the truism that many politicians have short memories.

The main argument was over the deficit and inflation targets for next year. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, Finance Minister Yaakov Neeman and Bank of Israel Governor Jacob Frenkel all advocated a 2.0 percent budget deficit and a 4 percent inflation target. Six ministers, led by Industry and Trade Minister Nathan Sharansky, demanded a budget deficit of 2.4 percent and an inflation target of 4-6 percent.

The Netanyahu-Neeman-Frenkel troika had two strong arguments on their side. The first was the argument for economic stability — the idea that government policy should be as consistent as possible, so that investors can make plans with some confidence in the future. This is necessary for long-term growth, because when economic policy varies unpredictably from year to year, investment becomes much riskier — and investors without a taste for gambling will put their money elsewhere.

When the Netanyahu government took power in 1996, it therefore committed itself to two long-term economic goals: an annual reduction of the budget deficit, as mandated by a 1992 law, and a gradual reduction of inflation to Western levels by 2001.

The Sharansky plan would have meant throwing out both of these goals, thereby destroying the government's hard-earned reputation for economic (if not political) reliability. A 2.4 percent budget deficit would be no lower than this year's planned deficit, and might be higher than this year's actual deficit. It would therefore violate both the principle of deficit reduction and the actual law, which calls for a 2.0 percent deficit in 1999. Similarly, a 4-6 percent inflation target means advocating higher inflation next year than the 4-5 percent which almost all economists are predicting for this year.

HOWEVER, economic stability is

a vague concept whose fruits are visible only in the long term. If this had been the only argument on the Finance Ministry's side, the fact that some ministers found it cold comfort against the grim reality of high unemployment might have been understandable.

What is harder to fathom, how-

What those who oppose the war on inflation fail to understand is that the cost of maintaining low inflation is much smaller than the cost of reducing high inflation

ever, is how six ministers — including some who have even been touted for the role of finance minister, such as Sharansky and Science Minister Silvan Shalom (Likud) — can so easily forget the lessons of Israel's not-so-distant past.

For more than 20 years, high inflation has been the bane of Israel's economic existence. In the late 1970s and early 1980s, inflation reached hundreds of percent a year. In 1985, the situation became so intolerable that a national unity government headed by Shimon Peres (Labor) decided on a draconian austerity plan, which included wage and price freezes. The Economic Stabilization Program succeeded in reducing inflation to "only" 18 percent a year, but there it remained stuck for several years.

In 1992, thanks to the combined efforts of prime minister Yitzhak Shamir, finance minister Yitzhak Moda'i, and the new central bank governor, Jacob Frenkel, another breakthrough occurred: Inflation was cut almost by half in one year, reaching single-digit levels (9.4 percent) for the first time since

1969. The price, however, was high: Unemployment that year was over 10 percent, thanks to the past few years' restrictive fiscal and monetary policy, while per capita growth fell to about 1 percent.

In 1993, the new Labor government reversed the trend. Inflation, the ministers decided, could take care of itself; the problem was unemployment. The result was several years of growing budget and balance of payments deficits — and growing inflation. Unemployment fell, but inflation was back up to 14.5 percent by 1994. It dipped in 1995, but rose again to 14.7 percent in the first half of 1996.

The Netanyahu government took power in mid-1996. By 1997, inflation had fallen again, to 7.0 percent, and this year it fell still further, to 4-5 percent. Again, however, the price of the necessary fiscal and monetary restraint has been high: Unemployment is currently over 9 percent, and per capita growth is negative.

Yet what those who oppose the war on inflation fail to understand is that the cost of maintaining low inflation is much smaller than the cost of reducing high inflation. It is precisely because this war has been conducted in fits and starts that the country has suffered a vicious cycle for the past decade: periods of large budget deficits and high inflation, followed by corrective periods of tight budgets, high interest rates and high unemployment.

After more than two decades of struggle, an end to this war is finally in sight. Another year or two of fiscally conservative budgets and interest-rate policy should be enough to get inflation down to Western levels, after which a sustained — rather than temporary — relaxation of these restraints will be possible. The alternative is to condemn the country to more years of the boom-and-bust cycle. Letting the inflation genie out of the bottle again now would therefore be the height of irresponsibility.

Fortunately, a majority of the cabinet appears to understand this. It is to be hoped that a majority of the Knesset will be equally wise.

Cannabis in California

WILLIAM F. BUCKLEY JR.

The general mess created by our drug laws has reached a tropical low in Los Angeles, where the storm center gathers over the head of Peter McWilliams.

Here is the political background: In November 1996, the California voters endorsed a plebiscite (Proposition 215) that authorizes the purchase of marijuana by any Californian with a doctor's prescription. Doctors are supposed to write out that prescription only when cannabis provides unique relief. That law conflicted with federal statutes that make the smoking of marijuana a crime at any time, including — to observe the language — on your deathbed.

The question immediately arose: What do we do about these conflicting jurisdictions? Everybody waited for everybody else to act. The most that Attorney General Dan Lungren would do (he is running for governor) was promise to observe the new law "minimally." But of course the reciprocal gears of justice do not here interlock glibly.

The marijuana lobby in California is sincerely interested in making the weed available to the sick, who are said to profit greatly from it. But the marijuana lobby in California is also sincerely interested in anybody's getting marijuana who wants marijuana, and the political story here took flesh and blood in Peter McWilliams.

McWilliams is a middle-aged literary man-about-town. He has written 30 books that range in concern from poetry to love to computers to moral anarchy.

He is a self-described libertarian who believes that no law should be passed which gets in the way of anybody doing anything he wants to do, provided it doesn't hurt somebody else; and that such laws as are on the books that conflict with libertarian doctrine should be treated only with just as much respect as is necessary to keep you out of jail.

On July 23, the feds concluded that McWilliams and partners were not sufficiently complying with the law. McWilliams, who has always appreciated the lighter side of life and thought, had ten money from his tiny publishing firm to an entrepreneur who used it to nurture 4,000 marijuana plants. Why? Well, if a doctor is entitled under the law to prescribe marijuana, then he has to get it somewhere, does he not?

So the feds announced themselves at 6 in the morning, with handcuffs, and took away not only McWilliams but also his computer with all its records. They demanded bail of \$250,000. His lawyer pleaded against the draconian extreme of the bail demanded. The defense was perfectly glad to give up Peter's passport.

Did anybody really think he would not show up at his trial?

Pressures of another kind were inflicted. McWilliams has AIDS and also a form of lymphoma. The treatment prescribed by his doctor is complex and delicately balanced and is required six times every day. The failure of the prison authorities to give him the doses as called for has resulted in frequent nausea, no trivial complaint given that in that condition, those who suffer from that combination of maladies McWilliams suffers from run the risk of contracting a terminal case of tuberculosis.

The meltdown is therefore now scheduled. A few months from now, McWilliams and his fellow defendants will insist that they were not guilty of any criminal intent. No money changed hands. True, McWilliams did at one point pass off the wisecrack that he wished to become the "Bill Gates of medical marijuana." But you don't go to prison for making wild statements about a fantasy life, any more than Bill Clinton goes to prison for making wild statements about celibate behavior.

But in ruling on McWilliams vs. the United States, prosecutors are going to have to face headlong the California argument. At one level, California will argue the Ninth and 10th Amendments to the Constitution, which prohibit federal activity in areas reserved to the states under the constitution. That defense will be half-hearted, because the justice establishment in California never liked Proposition 215, and doesn't like McWilliams, who is an enthusiast for marijuana, which he proclaims (in publications protected by the First Amendment) as suitable to give relief for most adult aches and pains.

It will be a very interesting trial, and it is likely that many institutions will weigh in with amici curiae pleading their own judgments of law, conflicts, drugs and liberty. Meanwhile, one hopes that Peter McWilliams, something of a bird of paradise, is left alone to take proper care of himself.

(Los Angeles Times)

(Universal Press Syndicate)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

NO LEG TO STAND ON

Sir — As usual, Yossi Beilin told only the PLO side of the story in his recent (August 11) column in stating that if Netanyahu had complied "with the timetable he signed in the Hebron Agreement" Israel would now "be completing the third stage in the plan for further redeployment."

Mr. Beilin has conveniently forgotten to mention that the Hebron Agreement gave Israel

the exclusive right to determine the extent of post-Hebron redeployments, and that on March 7, 1997, Arafat turned down an offer to transfer an additional 9% of the West Bank.

Secondly, redeployment was specifically made conditional upon, among other things, the revision of the Palestinian charter, the destruction of the terrorist structures within the PA territory,

the confiscation of illegal weapons and the reduction of an oversized army to a limited police force.

Until this has been done, Mr. Beilin doesn't have a leg to stand on. He should remember, "You can fool some of the people some of the time but you can't fool all of the people all of the time."

IRVIN E. SCHERER
Minneapolis, Minnesota

THE EVANGELIST

His newfound knowledge by a weekly recitation of his discoveries of what so many know anyhow. His "vignettes" consist of little homilies pronouncing how by comparison he is no insecure that his justification for his emergence with all the trappings of a "saved evangelist" must, it seems, be bolstered by attacking all and sundry who don't subscribe to his inter-

pretation of Judaism. He leads one to agree with the definition of Reform leader Eric Yoffie, which he quotes in denigration, just overlooking his own place in the current generation of the uniquely ignorant.

ERNEST MARKHAM
Kibbutz Yizre'el

GARDENERS' DELIGHT

Sir — Batsheva Mink's "Gardener's Corner" is excellent. In these days where there is growing awareness of the importance of conserving and improving the environment, when both the municipalities and private citizens invest more money and time in their parks and gardens respective-

ly, the Gardener's Corner is a helpful guide to all. The historical introduction is always of interest, but most of all the practical instructions are useful to anyone with a garden. If anyone doubts if Batsheva Mink practices what she preaches, let him/her look at her wonderful

flower displays at the Botanical Gardens.

I hope you will continue to treat us with these instructive and entertaining contributions.

SEREM FREIER
Jerusalem

FROM OUR ARCHIVES

65 years ago: On August 18, 1933, The Palestine Post reported from Berlin that Alfred Rosenberg, the publicity chief of the Nazi regime, published a warning that reprisals would be taken against those guilty of conspiracy against Germany taking place at the current Zionist Congress in Prague, which he claimed discussed the anti-German boycott and adopted the

"Protocols of the Elders of Zion."

50 years ago: On August 18, 1948, The Palestine Post reported that Arab artillery shelled Jerusalem once more. "The use of heavy weapons takes the new fighting out of the category of ordinary sniping which had previously marked breaches of truce," the Post commented. Count Bernadotte had drawn up a

comprehensive plan for taking care of some 323,000 Arab and 7,000 Jewish refugees, the UN announced.

25 years ago: On August 18, 1973, The Jerusalem Post reported that two Egyptian Sukhoi 7 light bombers flew over Israeli positions in Sinai. A complaint had been lodged with the UN.

Alexander Zvielli

Painting with a princess

Wearing traditional garb and encounters with the modesty police were just part of what a California artist experienced when she taught painting to the royal women of the House of Saud, Sue Fishkoff reports

Very few foreigners, and virtually no foreign women, are permitted to travel to Saudi Arabia, the desert kingdom that guards its cultural hegemony with strict controls on tourism. Women, in fact, are only allowed to travel in or out of the country if accompanied by their husband, father or brother.

But then, very few would-be travelers have a personal invitation from the Saudi royal family.

That's what California artist Mary Titus was clutching on May 11, when she landed in the kingdom: a note on royal letterhead from Princess Nouf bint Mashhour bin Abdul Aziz Munera al-Saud, niece to King Fahd, inviting Titus to teach a painting class to the women of the Saudi royal household.

The trip was proposed in the summer of '97 by a Canadian couple who dropped by Titus's gallery in Carmel, California, a small Pacific coastal town two hours south of San Francisco.

Michael Lee, one of King Fahd's personal

carefully from her belongings, and waved her other suitcases through, unopened. Titus was clearly no mere foreign woman.

Titus spent just one week of her three-week stay teaching watercolor technique, painting and mixed media in the Saudi capital. In the morning, she taught an all-female class, attended by Princess Nouf

eager to chat with her. She grew particularly close to Princess Nouf, who at 26 has already been married almost a decade, and whom she describes as having an inquisitive mind and natural elegance.

"The Saudi women love to take art classes," she reports. "They are always studying. Many of them would love to become interior decorators." That career choice, of course, is not open to them.

As a guest of the royal family, Titus received first-class treatment wherever she went. She stayed in a deluxe compound for foreigners, where the casually dressed Western women were protected from the prying eyes of passersby by a tall cement wall. She was driven

form. Women in Saudi Arabia, native or foreign, must wear abayas - long black, shapeless robes that fall from head to foot, completely concealing the curves of the body. Their faces are covered with a *burqa*, a black hood with only a slit for the eyes, even that obscured with fine black netting.

Some fashionable, daring or powerful women, Princess Nouf included, abandon the netting and let their eyes stare out boldly at the world, but most women don't dare test the limits of the country's religious law, or its enforcers: the feared and all-present *matowa*, or religious police.

The *matowa* can descend anywhere, Titus reports, and if you're a woman, you'd best be well-covered, or risk their wrath, which can range from a harsh tongue-lashing to actual violence.

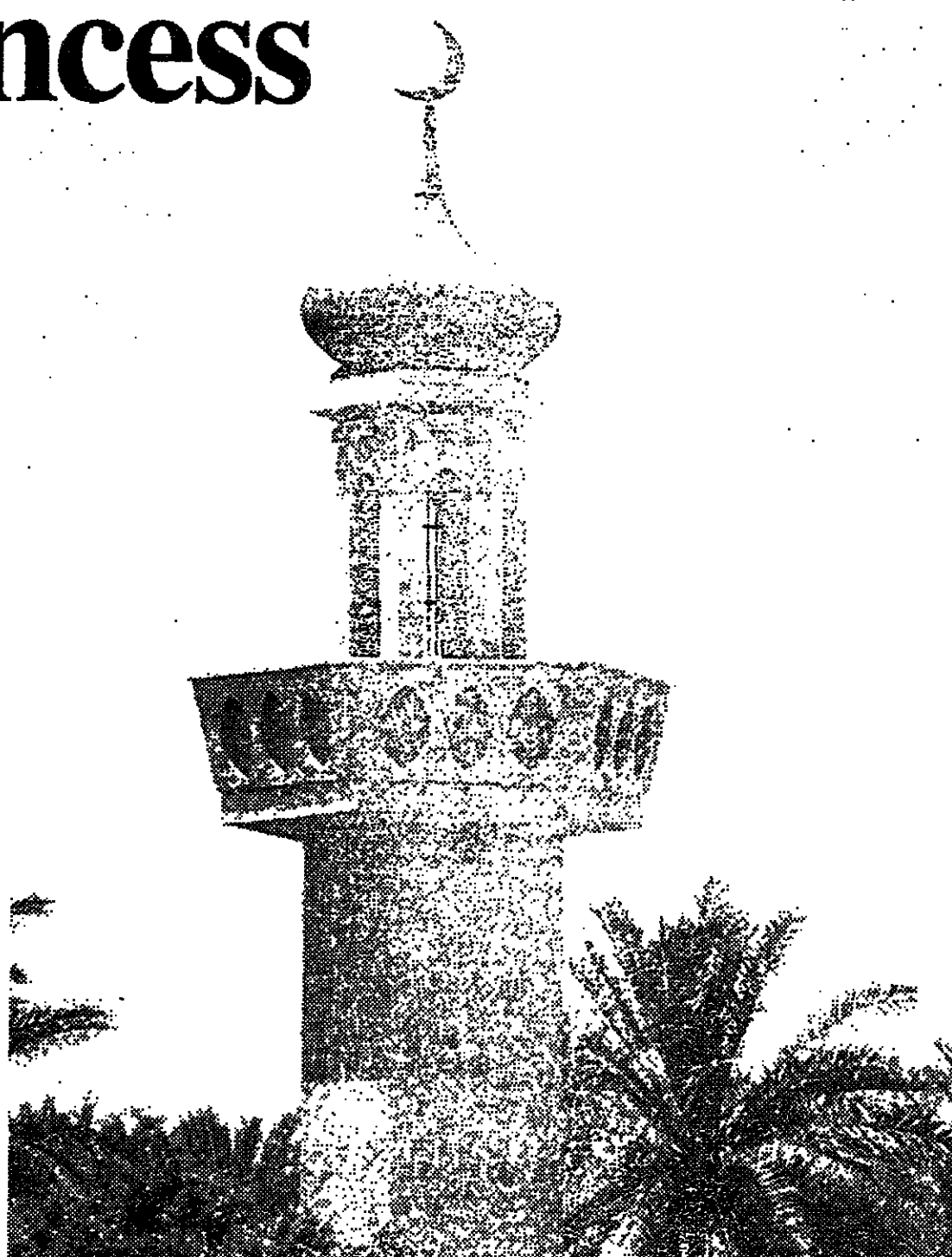
"They don't like to bother foreign women," she reports. "But they can be dangerous, especially if they've got a policeman with them."

Titus was always careful to keep her abaya tightly closed, and her hair pushed well under her *burqa*. Her encounters with the *matowa* were uncomfortable, she says, but, happily, uneventful.

Underneath their abayas, Titus reports, upper-class Saudi women are impeccably dressed in the latest Western fashions, purchased on buying trips to Paris, London and Milan. Those fashions are only for their own eyes, or those of their husbands.

CHANGE is afoot, however. The omnipresent black abaya is beginning to be offered in a narrow range of colors - dark colors, so far, brown, gray and rust. Nothing too flashy. And Titus heard tell of a new "women only" mall, where shoppers still wear their abayas, but can let down their guard a bit.

The Saudis Titus encountered were quite aware of the stereotypes Westerners harbor about them and their country, and were eager to talk about them. Princess Nouf would often ask Titus why Westerners "say



(Left) Artist Mary Titus stands next to two of her Saudi royal students. Munera, smiling, is the granddaughter of King Abdullah; (above) One of Titus's students invited her to visit this mosque at her palatial residence; (below) Titus's parting gift to King Fahd, presented by proxy.

physicians, and his wife Sandi, an artist who teaches some of the Saudi royal women, liked Titus's work and asked whether she'd agree to teach a class in Saudi Arabia, for a few princesses.

She would.

It took almost a year for the arrangements to fall into place, but eventually Titus found herself in the arrivals room at Riyadh's international airport.

Almost immediately, she and her luggage were pulled out of the security line, as suspicious passport officials repeatedly inquired as to her business in Saudi Arabia. Her insistence that she was there by personal invitation of the royal family brought only raised eyebrows, as did the letter from Princess Nouf.

It was only when a security guard, rifling through one of her suitcases, came upon a videocassette of Titus's artwork with the royal family's name embossed on it in gold Arabic letters, that his attitude changed from dark to deferential. He removed his hand



and other nieces, granddaughters and wives of Saudi royalty.

In the evening, Titus taught Westerners, mostly wives of foreign doctors and dentists who attend King Fahd.

TITUS found the Saudi royal women very warm, bright, and

everywhere in Princess Nouf's personal car, which came complete with chauffeur and heavily-curtained windows.

The curtains, of course, are for modesty. Saudi Arabia follows a strict code of *sharia*, or Islamic law, including the prohibition on any public display of the female

bad things about us," a question Titus felt ill-equipped to answer.

Sometimes, Saudis would play with what they imagined were Titus's own stereotypes. Once she was in a Riyadh marketplace, watching a jeweler prepare some small gold trinkets she had ordered as souvenirs. Suddenly, there was a commotion behind her. People started running past, scurrying into doorways.

"Must be *matowa*," Titus offered, looking for comfort. The jeweler, a heavily bearded older man, glanced at her from under his bushy eyebrows. "I am *matowa*," he stated gruffly.

"You are not," she answered, playfully. "Yes, I am," he retorted, glaring.

"No, you're not," she replied, less boldly. "Yes, I am *matowa*," he insisted, glancing at her all the while, gauging her reaction. "Nooooo," Titus shook her head, drawing back in mock fear. He grunted, letting a whisper of a smile pass over his face. Was he,

or wasn't he? Titus has no idea. But she played it right.

The last three days of her visit, Titus held an exhibition of her own artwork in the lobby of a posh hotel in downtown Riyadh. Princess Nouf, who sponsored the exhibition, asked that it be held there, a very public,

the appropriate government ministry to make sure they adhered to Moslem standards of modesty, such as the ban on displaying human faces. Parts of a face can be shown, but never the entire face, either of a human or many large animals, such as elephants.

Even in class, Titus says, the Saudi women were scrupulous about observing that ban. Princess Nouf, a talented draftsman, would fill her sketchpad with delicately drawn eyes, but when Titus suggested that she try her hand at sketching a face, the princess shook her head sharply and said, "No, no, no!"

Before her departure on June 6, Titus left a part of herself behind in the royal palace at Jeddah: a painting of three falcons she presented to King Fahd as her personal gift. The presentation was made by proxy, of course, since few people are admitted into the king's presence - not even his niece's art teacher.

"Underneath their abayas, upper-class Saudi women are impeccably dressed in the latest Western fashions bought in Paris, London and Milan. Those fashions are only for their own eyes, or those of their husbands"

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ISRAEL ELECTRIC CORPORATION TENDERS

The Israel Electric Corporation invites bids for the supply of the following goods/services:

Tender No. 680821

Agreement for the Supply of Hot Zinc Galvanization Services

Stage One - Submission of technical/commercial details without prices

Cost of Tender Documents: NIS 2,138 (inc. VAT)

Quantities: Para. 1: Hot Galvanization - 11,000 tons.

Para. 2: Assembly of bars and items - 1,200 tons.

Para. 3: Painting on galvanized metal - 1,600 tons.

Participation Pre-conditions:

All bidders must take part in a tour of the Israel Electric Corporation site on either September 9, 1998 or September 16, 1998. Both tours begin at 10 a.m.

With their bids, bidders must submit a letter signed by a representative of the Israel Electric Corporation, verifying their participation in one of the tours.

To confirm participation, contact David Natanson, Tel. 04-684-4504.

Bidders must provide a one meter sample of each type of cable.

Other Participation Conditions: As detailed in the tender documents.

Period of Contract: Two years, with an option to extend for a further year.

Last date for submitting bids: September 27, 1998, at 11 a.m.

Additional participation pre-conditions:

A. Participation in the tender is also subject to complying with the preliminary conditions detailed in the Tender Regulations 1993, Para. 6(b) 1, 2, 3 (i.e., registration as required by law, compliance with mandatory specifications, and the holding of the permits required by law for transactions with public bodies).

B. The Israel Electric Corporation reserves the right to allow a bidder who has not provided some required relevant documents, permits, licenses, etc., to submit them within a time that will be set by the Corporation.

The tender documents may be obtained Sunday - Thursday, at the Market Research and Tenders Department, 11 Sderot Pei-Yam, Haifa, between 9 a.m. and 12 noon, on submission of a receipt, demonstrating payment for the documents (non-refundable) into the Corporation's account at the Postal Bank. Payment slips for making such payments are obtainable at the above address by calling 04-688 7455/4.

Before purchasing the tender documents, potential bidders may peruse them, Sunday - Thursday, 9 a.m.-12 noon, at the above offices or at the Sales Department, 90 Renov Yigal Alon, Tel Aviv, Ashdod Building, entrance C, 1st floor, Tel. 03-655-4679, 03-655-4641. (An appointment to peruse the documents must be made beforehand with the Sales Department.)

Bids should be submitted in a sealed envelope and be placed in Tender Box No. 1 in the Pei-Yam Building, Haifa (address as above) not later than 11 a.m. on the last date for submitting bids, as stated above.

No undertaking is given to accept the lowest or any bid.

NOTE: In appropriate cases, the Electric Corporation will give preference to suppliers, in accordance with the Tenders Regulations (Preference for Locally Produced Goods, and Obligation to Extend Commercial Cooperation).

The Electric Corporation reserves the right to negotiate, where this is legally permissible.

The tender documents may be read on the IEC's Internet site: WWW.ISRAEL-ELECTRIC.CO.IL

DRIVE CAREFULLY!

Amazingly, the show goes on

'How tall are you?" "How big are your feet?" "Have you ever been recruited by the NBA?"

In city after city, Aurengzeb Khan — formerly a cabdriver, a bouncer, a security supervisor — endures these three questions with a wan half-smile, sitting atop a makeshift throne in an outfit that gives him the gaudy aspect of a genie.

This is the first year of his two-year contract as the "World's Tallest Man" in the Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus, and, frankly, he says with a chagrined look, there are days when he thinks, "They don't pay me enough."

Khan is part of the circus's "freak show" (not Ringling's phrase; the preferred designation is "sideshow sensations"), a decades-old tradition that has been resurrected this year as the circus searches for a fresh spin on its 128-year-old franchise (in addition to Khan, at 8 feet the tallest man, there is Michu, at 33 inches the smallest).

Other innovations in Ringling include "The Three Ring Adventure," an interactive pre-circus event where patrons are invited into the arena an hour before show time to mingle with the clowns and acrobats and specialty acts like Mysticlese, the "Master of the Mind," who walks on lightbulbs.

But mostly, the circus is still the circus — an anachronism on wheels, a United Nations traveling the highways of America 49 weeks of the year, nomadic and self-contained and apparently able to beat back the forces that always threaten to make an old-time circus extinct: the movies and television and techno-toys aimed at kids, the protests and boycotts from animal rights activists alleging abuse of the circus animals.

Amid this, the Vienna, Va.-based Ringling Bros. circus, owned by Feld Entertainment, reportedly made \$95.5 million last year.

Not everything about the circus calls to mind a long-lost era; these days, the ringmaster uses a wireless microphone, and the big top has been replaced by arenas with corporate names. The "World's Tallest Man" has a pager number.

But Ringling Bros. is still an alternate universe of circus families, circus marriages and circus

Despite television, movies and techno-toys, and in the face of protests by animal rights activists, the Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus continues to draw performers and patrons alike.

Paul Brownfield takes a look backstage



The elephants are among the circus's most popular — and controversial — performers. (Los Angeles Times)

people, a place where a 46-year-old Hungarian physical education teacher can reinvent himself as "Nikolai, The Iron Jaw," able to bend steel in his teeth.

THERE ARE many Central and Eastern Europeans, Bulgarians, Russians, Hungarians, Romanians. There is a Pakistani (Khan). This year, there's a group of African performers from

Gabon.

Alan Ware, 30, a clown, steps off the Ringling train and onto the parched earth of Fresno in July. Already, Emily Sullivan, Matthew Morgan and Mark Gindick, fellow twenty-something clowns, have set up lawn chairs and are smoking in the impossible heat.

It's 1:30 p.m. Tuesday, and the circus has just arrived from a weekend engagement in Phoenix, Ariz. For the next five days, the nearly mile-long train will remain parked on this desolate stretch of track on the outskirts of downtown Fresno.

There are 18 clowns in each of the two Ringling Bros. units (red and blue) that travel the country. All have to go through clown college, then a series of auditions to earn a spot on Clown Alley. Clowning doesn't pay much (they make as much as \$15,000 a year), and the circus provides them only transportation and a "roomette," a roughly 4-by-8-foot living space.

Meals aren't covered. Neither are incidentals, which for a clown can include lots of Baby Wipes and talcum powder.

Many performers have what are called "cherry pie jobs." They help with load-ins and with rigging, to earn extra cash. But if you're in your 20s and want to see the country, why not ride the rails as a circus clown?

At 5:30 p.m., four hours after the train pulled into town, the Asian elephants were still standing chained in their modestly ventilated freight cars, the temperature outside up over 100 degrees.

There are assurances from circus officials ("They like the heat," says one), but on a day like today, it isn't hard to see why Ringling Bros. is a favorite target of animal rights groups, principally People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals, or PETA.

Several months ago, in a canny use of the Internet, PETA posted a site at www.ringlingbrothers.com to detail the circus's violations of federal animal care regulations, including one involving the death

of an elephant.

Ringling sued for copyright infringement, and in May PETA backed down, changing the site name to www.circuses.com. But PETA campaign coordinator Jane Harrison says the organization is hardly in a posture of retreat.

And she quickly counters the notion that the elephants don't mind standing in the stifling heat. "It infuriates me to hear that,"

she says. "Obviously, Ringling has a financial interest in making it seem like this [treatment] is OK."

For its part, the circus maintains that groups like PETA exaggerate and even lie about how the circus treats its animals, pointing to the fact that they have a full-time animal care staff and a "conservation farm" in Florida where they breed their Asian elephants rather than rip them from the wilds of Asia.

But the circus, Harrison notes, has been cited for violations of the Animal Welfare Act by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Just last April, the USDA cited the circus over the death of an elephant forced to perform while sick (the circus said the animal had a gastrointestinal infection and had been treated with antibiotics).

PETA plans to protest all of the circus's Southern California shows. David Kiser, traveling public relations director with the circus, seems unfazed.

"I think the more the public becomes educated about what we do, the more they ignore that," he says of the protests.

It is Wednesday afternoon and inside the Selland Arena workers are busy getting the circus ready for the night's opening performance. But Wednesday is also a school day for the circus kids and today, "school" takes place in a narrow room off the arena lobby.

Jean Erikson's job is a challenging one; in addition to overseeing 23 kids who range in age from 6 to 17, she has to find places to teach in arenas where a kid may suddenly raise his hand and ask to be excused for a rehearsal or even a performance. And then there's the fact that she has kids from such disparate lands as the Republic of Kyrgyzstan, Bulgaria and Spain. Like their homelands, the kids' English skills fall all over the map.

On this day, amid the bustle and noise of the setup crews, Erikson manages to keep her charges occupied with math, social studies and English grammar worksheets. The students, she says, get in 12 to 15 hours of class time a week. Erikson's been doing this for only a few months; she's a substitute until the circus finds a permanent teacher. Not surprisingly, she says, Ringling is having a tough time finding a permanent replacement.

"But I'm beginning to even like the smell of the animals," she says. (Los Angeles Times)



They're called 'sideshow sensations,' not freaks: Eight-foot-tall Pakistani Aurengzeb Khan towers over 33-inch Michu.



When clowns smile, it isn't because of their salaries: Alan Ware of New Mexico tips his hat moments before showtime.

GRAPEVINE

By GREER FAY CASHMAN

Though he was unable to attend the festivities last Friday, Labor leader Ehud Barak called from Europe to congratulate former prime minister Shimon Peres on his 75th birthday. The "surprise" party for the milestone celebration was hosted by Michael and Leora Federmann of the Dan Hotel chain. Considering that the Dan Tel Aviv, situated across the road from Labor Party headquarters, is largely viewed as an elegant — albeit unofficial — extension of the Labor offices, it was entirely appropriate for the Federmanns to throw open their Herzliya home for the occasion. Among the many well-wishers who congregated there was Leah Rabin, who kissed the guest of honor on both cheeks.

ALSO celebrating on Friday was Judy Nitz-Moses Shalom, wife of Science Minister Silvan Shalom, who happily turned 40 just 10 days after her husband kissed his own thirtieth goodbye. Shalom's children festooned her bedroom with balloons while she slept, and when she

delivery, of mail, according to Avi Rosental, director general of the Israel Hotel Association. The word plaza appears in the title of at least four international chains operating in Israel, says Rosental, so when visitors to this country tell relatives and friends at home that they're staying at "The Plaza," locating them here becomes something of a paper chase.

UNSURE of how much attention members of the Israel Bonds Task Force were paying to him, Dan Gillerman, chairman of the Federation of Chambers of Commerce, recalled the time he spoke, a couple of years back, to a group of investors on Wall Street after a sumptuous meal. He noticed that one investor had fallen asleep, but this did not bother him unduly until the man started snoring. Not wishing to embarrass him, Gillerman quietly asked the man next to him to nudge him awake. This evoked a retort of "You put him to sleep, you wake him up." After the roar of laughter



Larry King gets Barbra Streisand to reveal what she prays for.



Elihu Navi, left, cut hair for his country; Moshe Shahal, ever elegant in the heat.

woke serenaded her with "Happy Birthday to You..." in English.

PRIME Minister Binyamin Netanyahu and his family are this week boosting tourism to Tiberias, a vacation spot favored by Israel's first prime minister David Ben-Gurion. The publicity photos of the first family enjoying some of the northern resort area's tourist attractions will focus more attention on Tiberias than any number of advertised "special deals." Netanyahu is scheduled to do another tourist promotion next week in the Dead Sea area, but that particular venture may not be as profitable, as it's supposed to be a business meeting.

THE Ministry of Labor may be cracking down on foreign workers, but that did not prevent Philippines ambassador Rosalinda de Perio-Santos from expressing thanks to Israel for the warm welcome experienced by thousands of Filipino workers who are temporarily living here. Perio-Santos was speaking last Saturday night at the Noga Theater in Jaffa, where the University of the Philippines Madrigal Singers, known all over the world for their musical virtuosity, presented a recital honoring Israel on its jubilee anniversary and the Philippines — the first democratic republic of Asia — on the 100th anniversary of its independence. The internationally acclaimed choir also participated this week in the Zimriya Assembly of World Choirs in Jerusalem.

Zimriya Director Esther Herlitz attended the performances both in Jaffa and Jerusalem. Also at the Jaffa recital were Agriculture and Environment Minister Rafael Eitan and his wife Ofra, Foreign Ministry director-general Eytan Bentsur, composer Dudi Zeltzer, Tel Aviv University president Yoram Dinstein and the three honorary consuls of the Philippines, Alfred Aldrov with his wife Hava, David Elfrati with his wife Orit, and Danny Hachohen with his wife Carmel.

FOR the whole of its 33 years, the northern town of Karmiel has had a Labor representative as mayor — but not the next time around. Even if present incumbent Adi Eldar, 54, beats his opponents Avi Feldman, 46, (Likud) and Naftali Halperin, 54, (Geshet), it will not be on a Labor ticket. Not that Eldar, who also heads the Union of Local Authorities, has severed his ties with the Labor Party. It's just that there are certain Labor people he doesn't want on his list. If he runs independently (albeit with some Labor funding), he can formulate the list he wants rather than the list the party will foist on him. The Plaza Syndrome which has overtaken the Israel hotel scene is causing great confusion and resulting in much misdelivery, or no

delivery, of mail, according to Avi Rosental, director general of the Israel Hotel Association. The word plaza appears in the title of at least four international chains operating in Israel, says Rosental, so when visitors to this country tell relatives and friends at home that they're staying at "The Plaza," locating them here becomes something of a paper chase.

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ALWAYS a model of sartorial splendor in his long years as a Knesset member, Moshe Shahal is not about to allow the oppressive weather to interfere with his image. Still a member of Labor's leadership bureau, Shahal turned up to last Thursday's meeting wearing a jacket and tie.

AT a gathering last week of intelligence service veterans who engaged in espionage activities on behalf of the state both before and after its establishment, most of the former secret agents were still tight-lipped about assignments they undertook as long as half a century ago. But just Elihu Navi, a longtime former mayor of Beersheba and a beloved storyteller on radio, disclosed that he had posed as a traveling barber. He particularly loved to visit Al-Aksa mosque and the surrounding area on Fridays, where he gleaned his most useful items of information, especially if he was giving someone a haircut. If the customer was loquacious, Navi recalled, he would give him extra-special service to keep him talking longer. The Iraqi-born Navi was one of hundreds of Israelis of North African extraction who, at great risk to their lives, served the state immeasurably by operating as Arabs in neighboring countries.

I want a religious wife — yet I don't

Dear Ruthie, I am a 35-year-old Orthodox man seriously looking to find a good woman with whom to start a family.

I feel that the years have just slipped by and now I am quite desperate. I have gone on countless dates, some arranged by well-wishing friends, some through personal ads, and some at my initiative after meeting a woman I liked.

My problem is that I want to marry a woman who is also religious, but I am more attracted to women who are not. This is causing me a great deal of distress because this is one thing on which I am not willing to compromise.

Sometimes I dream that I will meet someone who will decide to become religious after falling in love with me, and then I can have the best of both worlds, so to speak. But this has not happened, and I'm beginning to lose hope that it ever will.

What can I do?
Unable to Meet the Right Mate
Somewhere in Israel

Dear Unmatable, You need to ask yourself: What is it about secular women that attracts you?

One possibility is that, deep down, you actually do not want to find a woman with whom to settle down and have a family, and the way to ensure not having to do so is by being attracted only to those members of the opposite sex who are not an option for you.

Perhaps your external behavior is geared toward self-manipulation: You go on countless dates, you claim — and believe — that you are "desperate," but your gut is giving you other messages. In this respect you are no different from other singles — religious or otherwise — who find themselves wanting to get married but can't seem to find someone who fits the bill.

Another, no less emotionally complex, possibility is that you are not drawn to

Dear Ruthie



Ruthie Blum

Orthodox women for the very reason you wish to marry one.

Maybe religious women remind you of your mother or sisters, for example, making it difficult, or horrifying, for you to feel attracted to them. Or maybe a part of you is drawn to what you feel to be a "dark side" of humanity — one which is the opposite of law-abiding, chaste, or believing in God. If so, this is a part of yourself about which you are conflicted. It may also explain why harbored hopes of finding someone who was not religious prior to meeting you, and who would become so afterwards — what you call enjoying the "best of both worlds."

Keep in mind that internal conflict of this sort is a hurdle more difficult to overcome than any external interference in our lives.

This is because not only are we faced with the task of conquering it, but we are also responsible for erecting and perpetuating it.

Though I would normally suggest therapy to assist you in untangling the internal knots that are preventing you from getting on with your life, in this case speaking to a rabbi whom you respect and trust might be even more effective.

In the meantime, try to loosen up. Desperation isn't the best emotion to be exuding when you're looking for a mate.

Letters should be addressed to: 'Dear Ruthie,' POB 81, Jerusalem 91000. For e-mail: ruthie@jpost.co.il ('Dear Ruthie' also appears in In Jerusalem and in City Lights on Fridays.)

Home Front will return next month

Tuesday,
August 18, 1998

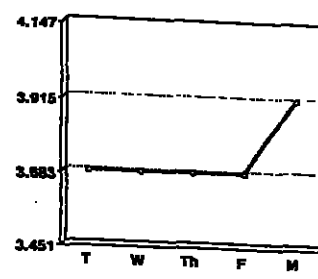
BUSINESS & FINANCE

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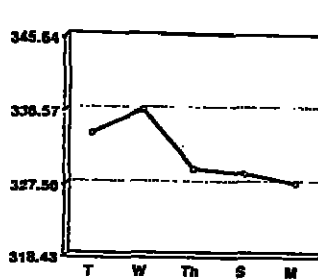
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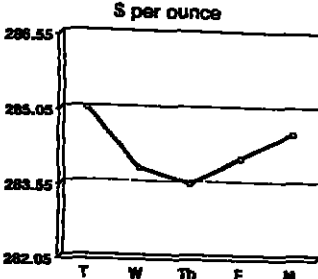
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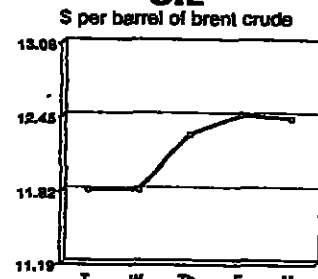
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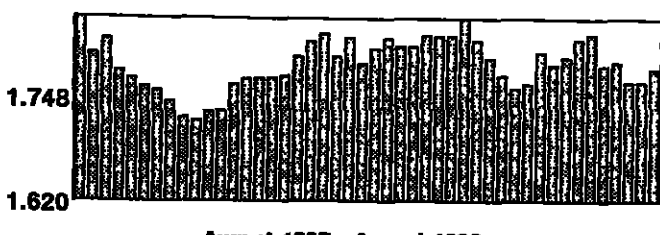
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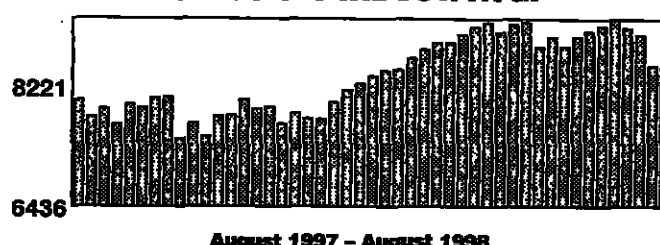
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Leumi prepares public offering

Bank Leumi yesterday announced that it will prepare a prospectus for the planned offering of a 10 to 15% stake on the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange, the bank said yesterday.

The offering is in line with previous plans of MI Holdings, the company in charge of selling government holdings in Israeli banks.

The bank said that the prospectus will be based on the first half earnings reports which are scheduled to be released by the end of the month.

The bank said that the exact size of the offering will be according to market conditions. In addition, Leumi said that the offering will also include the sale of bonds and options to the workers.

Dan Gerstenfeld

Discount Investments has stable net profit

Discount Investments yesterday reported that second quarter net profit declined slightly to NIS 69 million from NIS 70m. last year.

The company said that slowdown in economic activity has hurt some of its industrial, commercial and real estate subsidiaries. At the same time, electronics and communication companies reported an increase in operating profit.

Discount, which is one Israel's largest holding companies, said that revenues for the second quarter rose to NIS 141.3m. from NIS 100.3m. a year ago. The company also reported a capital gain of NIS 30m. from the sale of its holdings in Delek, the Israeli Fuel Corp., to contractor Yitzhak Tibshva.

The holding company said that its part in the net profits of its subsidiaries decreased in the second quarter to only NIS 40m. from NIS 74m. a year ago. The decline is a direct outcome of the sale of Discount's holdings in Iscar and Blades Technologies to the Werthimer family last year. Iscar, which was considered Discount's most profitable holding, contributed at the second quarter of 1997 NIS 20m. to the profits of the holding company.

Discount continues to hold large amounts of cash which have not been used so far for investments, with equity capital rising in second quarter to NIS 2.5 billion from NIS 2.4b. a year ago.

Dan Gerstenfeld

Lebanon may sell national carrier

Middle East Airlines, Lebanon's debt-ridden national carrier, might be sold to the private sector to avoid further loss, *An-Nahar* newspaper reported yesterday.

It quoted an unnamed expert in the aviation industry as saying that "a secret plan" was being studied to privatize MEA's basic services to spare the company losses that may reach \$100 million this year.

A report prepared by Christian Ballan, a member of MEA's board of directors and a former chairman of the French national carrier, Air France, confirmed that MEA might become "a profit-making company if it is cleaned from corruption and the policy of nepotism and commissions was halted," the paper said.

MEA, which employs about 5,000 people, is Lebanon's second biggest employer. It has a fleet of 15 aircraft and their destinations include South America and Singapore.

MEA, which flourished before the 1975-90 civil war when Lebanon was a regional hub, fell victim to the conflict. The airline incurred \$100 million losses in the past few years. The government bought a 99% stake in the company after debts owed to the Central Bank were converted into shares.

AP

Seoul seeking settlement with Hyundai

The South Korean government appealed for a negotiated settlement of a labor dispute at Hyundai Motor Co. yesterday amid signs of an imminent police intervention.

"We don't have time to stumble any longer," Labor Minister Lee Ki-ho told reporters before leaving Seoul to visit striking Hyundai workers in Ulsan, 280 kilometers southeast of Seoul.

He said police would break up the strike if the dispute is not resolved soon. News reports said the number of riot police in Ulsan was being increased from 4,500 to 13,000. The national news agency, Yonhap, said a raid could come in a day or two.

The nation's largest auto firm has been idle since July 20 when its 26,000-member union went on strike to protest spreading layoffs. About 2,000 workers and their family members have since been picketing the company's main plants.

Chief presidential spokesman Park Ji-won said early yesterday that the government's patience in dealing with the problem is limited. "The government wants both sides to come up with a compromise, but law should be upheld under any circumstances," he told reporters.

AP

January-June growth slows to 1.7%

By DAVID HARRIS

The economy's growth rate slowed to 1.7 percent during the first half of the year, according to figures the Central Bureau of Statistics released yesterday.

This growth rate is the lowest since the influx of immigrants in the early 1990s and compares to an annualized 1.9% in the second half of last year and 2.8% for the corresponding period 12 months ago. In the second half of 1995, growth increased 6.1%, but since then has been in decline.

For a year now, per-capita gross domestic product has been shrinking at an annual rate of 0.5%, reflecting the gap between Israel's 2%-plus annual demographic growth and its nominal output expansion. The increase in the population at a faster pace than the expansion of the economy is one of the main reasons for the rise in unemployment, according to government and private economists.

The business sector product is growing at an even slower pace than the overall economy, registering 1.4% growth in the first half of this year, compared to 1.2% from July to December last year and 3.3% in the first half of 1997.

Bureau spokesman David Neumann said that the figures could well be revised in the upcoming week, but that it is fair to say the GDP, which is taken as the measure of economic growth, did increase an annualized 1.5 - 2% in the first six months.

A fortnight ago, the Treasury presented the cabinet with its latest 1998 macroeconomic forecast, which points to 1998 growth of 1.5%, rising to 2.5% next year.

The bureau's data also indicates slow public consumption growth (1.2%), a downturn in housing investments (3.7%), and a considerable fall in the export of diamonds (19%). These were offset by growth increases in the export of goods and services (7.3%, excluding diamonds) and private consumption (3.4%).

While non-diamond exports are increasing, imports are showing a considerable slowdown. During the first half, overall imports shrank 0.2%, increasing by 2.2% excluding the precious stones. The overall figure compares to a 1.1% growth rate in the previous six months and 6.5% between January and June last year.

Meanwhile, inflation will end the year at 4.1%, Bank Hapoalim economists predicted yesterday. The consumer price index will increase 0.3% next month and 0.5% in September, they added. Over the next 12 months, the economists said inflation would reach 4.5%.



A security officer prevents a photographer from taking pictures near an automatic teller machine in Moscow last week. Some commercial banks refused to release dollars, even from dollar accounts.

Muscovites turn into desperate dollar seekers

By PETER GRAFF

MOSCOW (Reuters) - In scenes reminiscent of the bread lines of darker times, Russians queued in the streets yesterday in a frantic search for dollars.

The government denied that its decision to lift the ceiling on the ruble exchange rate amounted to a devaluation, but on the streets of Moscow people were taking no chances.

Virtually all of Moscow's hundreds of banks and exchange points immediately hiked the rate at which they sell dollars to 7.50 or 8.00 rubles, amounting to an instant de

facto devaluation of 15-20 percent. Even at that rate, most money changers said they had no dollars left to sell.

At the state-run Sberbank, where the rate had shot up to 7.50, a cashier said by noon that she had "a few" dollars left, but would not say how many.

Outside the Belorussky train station, cashiers at nearly all of dozens of exchange points said: "dollarov nyet" (no dollars).

One of the exchange booths still operating had at least forty people lined up into the street. Spectators stood around staring.

"Wait in the line," said a security

guard. "There are some dollars left. Of course, whether there will be any when you reach the front of the line, who can say?" Officials estimate that there are far more American dollars, in Russian pockets than the total value of rubles in circulation. Many Russians keep their savings in dollars and switch back to rubles only when they need them to shop.

After quadruple-digit inflation in the early nineties, many thought scenes like Monday's were a thing of the past. For several years, the ruble has depreciated gently and predictably.

The relative stability has been

considered one of the few conspicuous economic achievements of Boris Yeltsin's presidency.

Until yesterday the central bank was committed to keeping the ruble trading below 7.13 to the dollar until January 2001.

But yesterday morning it announced only that, with the proper legislative support, it was prepared to keep the ruble trading below 9.50 to the dollar by the end of this year. News that the country might be on the verge of its first major devaluation in years sent ordinary Russians rushing to get as many "bucks" as dollars are informally called, as they could.

Ruble crisis expected to hurt local exports

By NINA GILBERT

The devaluation of the ruble is expected to harm Israeli exports to Russia, dealing a setback especially in sectors which were making strides in penetrating the vast Russian market, officials and businessmen said yesterday.

Doron Klausner, head of the Foreign Trade Risk Insurance Corporation, said he expected a drastic decline in the number of export deals to Russia in the next few months.

"The Russians made a very bold move, but within a few months

things could stabilize," he said.

However, he said, if the situation does not stabilize there could be a risk to credit lines in Russian deals.

The Industry and Trade Ministry said that while trade with Russia is small, exports are concentrated in specific areas where Israeli has a comparative advantage, especially in telecommunications, agro-technology, medical equipment, chemicals and diamonds.

"It is hard to invest and work in Russia, in part due to bureaucratic limitations. Taxes are also very high there, and now it will be all the harder to export there," according

to Hezzy Pollyack of the ministry's Russia and CIS desk. "I assume Israeli exporters will be harmed, but it is too early to say by how much."

According to Pollyack, the first effects of the devaluation can be expected in the lack of means of payment for orders of goods.

Exports to Russia amounted to some \$250 million in 1997, while imports were \$160m. Sixty percent of exports in 1993 were of foodstuffs, while today those products only amount to 20%, said Pollyack.

Dan Propper, president of Osem and head of the Manufacturers Association, said specific export

sectors which have a lot of business in Russia are liable to suffer damage. He estimates these sales will drop by double-digit percentages. However, he said, the overall impact locally is limited, since exports to Russia are not so significant.

Elite, which sells some \$30 million annually to Russia, said it was too early to know what the impact of the move would be on sales this year. "We are carefully following the situation to see what develops and whether things stabilize. Russia is a target market, but it is not considered a stable market," said Amnon Dick, head of Elite Europe.

Japan commits public funds to bail out bank

TOKYO (AP) - Seeking to soothe concerns about the nation's banking system, Japan is willing to use public funds to help Sumitomo Trust and Banking Co. take over ailing Long-Term Credit Bank of Japan Ltd., a news report said yesterday.

The two banks had announced a merger in June, but rumors that Sumitomo may be getting cold feet as it learns the true extent of LTCB's bad loans have sent LTCB's shares to record lows.

The government has decided to use funds originally earmarked for protecting depositors to ensure that LTCB stays solvent as it merges with Sumitomo, the *Yomiuri* newspaper said in its interactive edition.

To receive the support, LTCB

must present a restructuring plan this week that includes steps to shut down money-losing subsidiaries and cut back foreign operations, the report said. An LTCB spokesman said he couldn't confirm the report.

LTCB was once a symbol of Japanese finance, providing long-term loans to industry as Japan

began its economic ascent from the ashes of World War II. But as liberalization has allowed companies to go directly to the bond market for funding, LTCB has failed to find a new purpose.

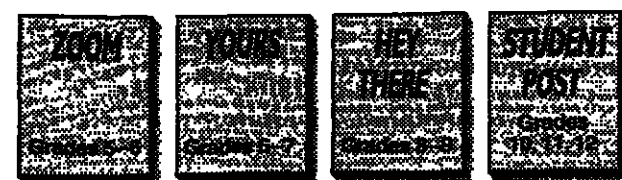
LTCB's shares have fallen as low as 37 yen in the last week and closed yesterday at 41 yen, up 1 yen.

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Building Blocks

By Nina Gilbert

RESIDENTIAL

Tel Aviv and center

■ The Zeltner Building Company and America Israel Investments have signed a partnership agreement to establish a high-rise apartment building in Rishon LeZion at a cost of some \$25 million. Sales in the 216-apartment project are expected to reach 340m. The complex is to be built on some 13 dunams of land under a deal between Zeltner and the private owners, who in exchange are to receive 30 percent of the project.

The land is at the corner of Jerusalem and Levine streets, near another neighborhood established by Zeltner, Neve Shalom. The project is to be comprised of high-standard, three- and four-room apartments, some with gardens and underground parking. Sales and construction are due to begin next month, and occupancy is scheduled for another two years.

Three buildings are to be nine stories high, two will be eight stories and one will be six stories.

■ In Kfar Sava, a development is being established on a 200-dunam area by the Bar-Oz group. The development, called Opposite the Park, will have 270 homes, which are being marketed by RE/MAX. The homes, in four-story buildings, range from three rooms to six-room duplexes/penthouses, ranging in price from \$190,000 to \$315,000. The development, which will include a total of 12 buildings, is opposite a 270-dunam area where the City of Kfar Sava is to establish a park, due to be ready in two years. The park is to have a man-made lake, a jogging track and picnic grounds.

■ A five-room, 175-sq.m. apartment in a new project in Zikhron Ya'akov, called Hama Shalom, was sold for \$1,000 via RE/MAX. The apartment, on the fourth floor, has a view of the sea. The building has a swimming pool and a doorman. The apartment was owned by a young couple who own a high-tech company.

■ In Herzliya, a five-room duplex on Rehov Ben-Gurion was sold for \$225,000, 10% less than the asking price, via RE/MAX. The apartment is on the third floor without an elevator, but has porches.

On Rehov Barak, a three-room apartment in excellent condition was sold for \$192,500 via Century 21. The 80-sq.m. apartment is on the first floor without an elevator, but has parking. The asking price was \$200,000.

A four-room duplex on Rehov Avigdor in the Herzliya Haverat project was sold for

\$310,000, 10% less than the asking price, via RE/MAX. The home has a porch and is on the fourth floor with an elevator.

■ In Netanya, RE/MAX rented a 250-sq.m. six-room villa in Ramat Polez, on Rehov Moshe Such for \$1,000. The house also has a basement and a Jacuzzi. The tenant is a Tel Aviv businessman, and the landlord is a businessman residing in Russia.

■ In Tel Aviv, on Rehov Miriam Hashmonai, opposite Yarkon Park, a three-room 88-sq.m. apartment was sold for \$240,000. The apartment is on the third floor without an elevator and was sold via RE/MAX for 3% lower than the asking price.

Haifa and north

A terraced apartment complex with views of Lake Kinneret is being established by Bnei Hachoch in Tiberias. The project, Medougal Hakinneret, is being built in conjunction with the Housing Ministry. The three-, four- and five-room apartments all have terraces with views, and many have gardens. The project has 112 apartments; three rooms are priced at around \$120,000, and four rooms at \$140,000.

The company is also building American-style villas in Metulla on individual lots ranging in size from 300 sq.m. to 500 sq.m. About 10 homes, priced at \$180,000, are still for sale in the development, Hatzitza. All homes have some 160 sq.m. of floor space, mountain views and driveways.

■ In Afeka, a four-room apartment on Rehov Menachem, in a quiet and well-kept area, was sold via Century 21 for its asking price of \$120,000. The 115-sq.m. apartment is on the second floor with an elevator and parking. The agency said the apartment was sold in one day because the seller asked for a bargain price.

■ On Rehov Rehov Eliezer, a four-room apartment was sold for \$165,000 via Anglo-Saxon. The apartment has 90 sq.m. and is on the third floor with an elevator and a subterranean parking space.

The agency also sold a four- and a half-room apartment in Ramat Golan for \$300,000. The apartment, on the third floor with an elevator and storeroom, has 125 sq.m. and a 10-sq.m. porch.

■ Also in the city, a luxurious six-room penthouse on Rehov Hachoch was sold via Century 21 for \$346,000. The 180-sq.m. apartment is on the second and top floor in a building with an elevator and parking and only four residents. The apartment has porches and a stunning view. The agency said the apartment, whose asking price was \$375,000, was purchased at a bargain price.

Market magnetism

Positive economic trends at home and menacing developments abroad are pulling Tel Aviv's financial markets in opposite directions

MARKET WATCH

By Dan Gorenfeld

Only a week ago the outlook for the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange was unbelievably bright. The surprising announcement from the governor of the Bank of Israel Jacob Frenkel that the interest rate would be cut by 1.5 percent sent stock prices soaring to the sky.

The immediate reaction on the local bourse was very favorable, with the Maof 25 gaining some eight percent in less than three trading days. Enthusiastic traders rushed to explain that this was only the beginning of a new upward trend that would lift indices to new highs.

The euphoria was documented in a special report published by Meitav Investments and Securities. The report was released last Sunday, only two days after the rate announcement, and was extremely positive.

In the report Meitav's experts concluded that the stock market is about to face a sharp rise. Furthermore, they wrote, for the first time there are signs that the general public, which abandoned the stock market in the early '90s, may finally be ready to invest some of its savings in the TASE. The logic behind this assessment is that as interest rates fall, savers would turn away from shakel-linked deposits — which were the most desirable investments of the last several years as they provided a relatively high return with very low risk.

In addition, the authors noted that for the first time this year real interest rates dropped. According to Meitav, despite the fact that the Bank of Israel has reduced its key lending rate by 2.4% in a series of monthly cuts during the last eight months, real rates actually rose as inflation fell at a faster pace than interest rates. The recent rate cut, however, reduced the real rate from 7%-8% to 5.5%-6.5% suggesting that shakel-linked investments are becoming less attractive.

The market seemed to be set to go north with the interest-rate cut providing the trigger for the long-awaited rise. But just as local traders started increasing their positions, the market suffered an unexpected blow: Global markets dropped sharply and investors lost confidence. The downward trend swept all emerging markets, the TASE, which lost 5% in three days, notwithstanding.

Once again the foreign investors, who are believed to be the main force behind the recent rise in the TASE, dictated the market's direction. Those investors

who are focusing on local blue chips are directly responsible for the fact that the Maof 25 index has surged some 70% during the last two years.

The TASE's sudden drop was accompanied by a sharp decline in trading volume. It was primarily bank shares, which rose sharply earlier this year following favorable reports published by foreign analysts, that suffered.

"The foreigners are less active now," said Daniella Finn head of the international department at Ilanot Batucha Investment. "They are concentrating on other emerging markets which are more fragile such as Russia and Turkey."

Finn said that bank shares were also hurt by the recent credit-card war which began after the new provider Visa Alpha began to operate. "The credit war will hurt banks' profitability, and indicates that the banks' other sources of income may also be adversely affected by stronger competition."

HOWEVER, Eli Nahum, head of trading at Zannex Securities,

believes that foreign investors will return to invest in the Israeli banking sector. "Currently there is a negative sentiment toward the banks because of the credit war and the economic slowdown," Nahum said. "I believe that once things calm down, the foreigners will return to buy shares in Israeli banks."

Both Nahum and Finn agree that Israel is affected by the huge losses suffered in other emerging markets. "Overseas investors in the TASE are very concerned about emerging markets around the globe," said Finn. "Like in other emerging markets, the foreigners have become more active on the selling side, as opposed to the past in which they were on the buying side."

Despite this change she said that there is no mass pullout, and most foreign investors prefer to remain on the sidelines waiting for further developments.

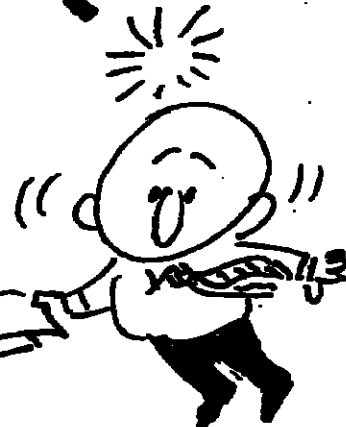
"We didn't see any sell-off," said Finn. "The foreigners have no time to deal with the Israeli stock market, which accounts for only 2% of the index of emerging

markets."

Nahum added that one of the reasons overseas money managers who specialize in emerging markets are neglecting the TASE is that they're busy worrying about other falling markets. "That's all? Do you know how much the bourse in Moscow is dropping now?"

Traders believe that in the near term the local market will continue to be affected by problems abroad, saying that foreign investors are still optimistic about the TASE. "There is still much uncertainty concerning global markets," said Finn. "If the overseas markets calm down and Wall Street remains stable or even sluggish, the TASE will resume its rise," said Finn. "On the other hand, if Wall Street plunges, it will be followed by a similar drop here."

Despite the above, Nahum thinks the TASE may even benefit in the long run, as Israel demonstrates its strength over other emerging markets. "If we survive these shocks it will lead to growing interest in the Israeli market," he said. "Eventually it will have a positive impact."



MEIR RANEN ©98

Another sweet year for French wines

France's recent heat wave should actually improve this season's harvest

By GREGORY VISCUSI

PARIS — The blistering sun that has settled over France for the past week should increase the quality of this year's wine harvest, though it will cut down on its quantity, wine producers say.

And that should mean higher prices for the second vintage running, good news for an industry that accounts for 2.5 percent of total exports.

France, which vies with Italy as the world's largest wine producer, has an annual output worth more than 100 billion francs (\$17 billion), and even with some crop danger from the searing heat, wine growers have reason to hope for another year of double-digit income and export growth.

"Some areas are reporting burned grapes, but overall it looks like a very good year," said Laurent Charlier, an enologist at the Bordeaux Wine Interprofessional Committee. "The sun allows the grapes to accumulate sugar."

The heat is best for the heartier red wines produced in the south and center of the country, promising some rich and tasty Bordeaux, Burgundy and Cotes-du-Rhone.

It's causing some damage to more delicate whites and Champagnes from the north, which aren't used to this week's temperatures in the high 30's. The conversion of sugar to alcohol through fermentation is what turns grape juice to wine. A high sugar content, which is brought on by dry, hot summers, produces better wine. Dry weather also prevents molds.

But hot sun, especially with the record temperatures seen in France this week, can cause some of the most exposed grapes to shrivel.

After an unseasonably cool and rainy July in northern and western France, which include the areas that make Champagne, Bordeaux,



The heat is best for the heartier red wines like the ones produced here in the Cote de Nuits district of Burgundy.

Burgundy and Beaujolais wines, temperatures suddenly shot up to the high 30's last week, well above average. The heat wave lasted a week before cooler but still sunny weather arrived in the North.

The south, which includes the Chateaufort-du-Pape and Languedoc areas, has had hot weather since early July, but the types of grapes grown there are used to the Mediterranean sun.

Marie-Annick David, a producer of white muscadet wine in the Loire Valley in the center-west of France, said her harvest this year could be cut by about 10 percent because of the heat, but that the quality of the remaining grapes would be better.

"The grapes like the sun," she said.

In the Champagne area, up to about 5 percent of the grapes were "grilled" by this week's heat wave, meaning they shrivel and drop off before maturing. It's the first time that's happened in more than five summers.

But this year's Champagne harvest will still exceed last year's, which was curtailed by a mildew attack in July, said Daniel Lorton, the secretary general of the Champagne Interprofessional Committee. The harvest will probably come up against the 10,400 kilograms of grapes a hectare limit set to control quantity and quality. Last year, just under 10,000 kilos a hectare were picked.

"Sun is essential for the grapes, but it's always scary when you see a sun so hot that it grills the grapes," Lorton said. "But the effect has been limited, and we're very optimistic for this year."

Beaujolais production, which uses the gamay grape, which resists heat better than the chardonnay grape grown in Champagne, will also be cut this year, but because of a frost in April, not because of the sun, spokeswoman Anne Mathon said.

"It's August that makes the quality of our wine," she said. "This hot weather is exactly what we've all been hoping for."

NONE of the regional associations that represent France's various

types of wine would make predictions for this year's vintage because there are still between three and seven weeks until the grapes are harvested, depending on the area.

"We are crossing our fingers because one period of stormy weather and the crop will be ruined," Mathon said.

Early August is a crucial time for grapes because it is then that they change color from green to either ruby or golden, depending on the variety, and begin their final maturing.

The best weather for the wine, the associations said, would be a continuation of sunny weather mixed with a little rain.

They also said they couldn't forecast prices, which are set by various auction systems once the wine has been put into barrels this fall. But they said the combination of smaller quantity and high quality would obviously help.

Booming exports lifted wine prices last year. For example, at the Hospice de Beaune wine auctions last October, which set the benchmark for Burgundy wine, prices jumped 46 percent from the previous year's vintage.

Champagne's Lorton said prices paid to growers for fancy well-known brands such as LVMH SA's Moet-Chandon and Veuve Clicquot have risen about 5% so far in 1998. But prices paid for mid-level champagne have jumped about 20 percent as French supermarket and hypermarket chains such as Carrefour SA and Galeries Lafayette SA's Monoprix rush to promote in-house brands, especially ahead of the high demand expected as people celebrate the arrival of 2000.

Overall, the income of wine growers gained 23% in 1997 from 1996, the Agriculture Ministry said in May. Exports rose 16% to 42 billion francs last year. (Bloomberg)

THE CONFERENCE CIRCUIT

By GREER FAY CASHMAN

19.8 A workshop on Efficient Handling of Customer Complaints will be conducted by the Israel Management Center at the Dan Panorama Hotel, Haifa. The workshop will be repeated on August 24 at the Tel Aviv Holiday Inn Crown Plaza.

19.8 The MIT Enterprise Forum, in conjunction with the Israel export Institute, will hold a conference on Developing Markets through the Use of Channels. Two managers of high technology companies, David Asia, chairman of Magic Software Enterprises and Effi Wachtel, president and CEO of RAD Data Communications, will discuss the topic from their own experiences and perspectives. Lucy Shahar, a cross-cultural consultant who authored *Border Crossing: American Interactions with Israelis*, will speak about "Communicating across the barriers." The four-hour conference will begin at 16:00. The venue is the fifth floor of the Israel Export Institute, 29 Hamered Street, Tel Aviv. The participation fee is NIS 145.

23.8 The Sixth International Mycological Congress will be held at the Jerusalem Holiday Inn Crown Plaza and the Jerusalem International Convention Center. Some 600 participants from around the world are expected to attend. The congress has been coordinated by Prof. Avraham Szejnberg of the Hebrew University Faculty of Agricultural Food and Environmental Quality Sciences.

1.9 Wine connoisseurs and gourmet chefs from around the world will

attend the three-day Golan Vintage '98 International Wine Festival to be held at the Golan Heights Vineyards. The festival, which will be opened by Tourism Minister Moshe Katsav, will include gourmet meals and lectures by wine experts on new developments in the production, taste, marketing, sales and consumption of wines in Israel and abroad. Speakers include Dr. Roger Boulton, professor of wines at the University of California; French vintner Marc Beyer; Adam Strum, a leading journalist with the New York publication *Wine Enthusiast*; renowned French sommelier Philippe Bourguignon; British journalist Brian Jordan, who writes about wine for a variety of publications; and Victor Schonfeld of the Golan Heights Wineries.

16.9 Photokina '98, one of the front communications industry's most important world fairs, will open in Cologne and continue till September 21. More than 1,600 companies from some 45 countries will participate. Photokina represents the latest in state-of-the-art technology in digital, stills and multimedia photography and production equipment. The fair will also offer lectures and workshops on new developments in photography and video recording.

23.9 Chairpersons, presidents and CEOs of the world's largest multinational companies will convene in Budapest for the annual three-day Fortune Global Forum. The forum's theme this year is "Creating wealth in the new global economy." Former US secretary of state Henry Kissinger will be among the speakers.

Mixed soccer fortunes for title favorites

LONDON (Reuters) - Domestic title favorites had mixed fortunes this weekend as the new league seasons got underway in England and Germany.

In the English Premier League Chelsea slumped to a surprise defeat at Coventry and Manchester United struggled to a home draw with Leicester, while Liverpool won away at Southampton.

German champions Kaiserslautern and title favorites Bayern Munich meanwhile started their campaigns with away wins, while in France Monaco, Marseille and Girondins Bordeaux maintained their 100 percent starts.

In Scotland, champions Celtic missed two penalties, scored an own goal and had a man sent off as they lost 3-2 to Aberdeen.

Chelsea, with French World Cup winner Marcel Desailly among their debutants, trailed at Coventry to goals from Darren Huckerby (10 minutes) and Dion Dublin (16) before Gustavo Poyet headed the lone reply

in the 37th minute.

Manchester United came back with two goals in the last 11 minutes to draw 2-2 with Leicester City.

David Beckham scored the equalizer for United direct from a free-kick with almost the last kick of the game deep into injury time. Emile Heskey (7) and Tony Cottee (76) gave Leicester the lead with Teddy Sheringham (79), then Beckham, replying.

England's teenage striker Michael Owen created a goal for German partner Karlheinz Riedle and then scored the winner as Liverpool won 2-1 at Southampton.

Norway's Egil Ostenstad had given the home side a first-half lead.

GERMANY

A second-half goal by Giovane Elber gave German first division title favorites Bayern Munich a 1-0 win at VfL Wolfsburg in their opening match of the new season.

Brazilian striker Elber squeezed past Wolfsburg's Croatian defender Marjan Kovacevic to score the only goal in the 65th

minute.

Champions Kaiserslautern won 2-1 at TSV 1860 Munich with Egyptian newcomer Samir Ibrahim scoring the winner in the 62nd minute.

Striker Bernhard Winkler put the home side in front from the penalty spot in the 12th minute but the visitors leveled through Olaf Marschall three minutes before the break.

Bayer Leverkusen needed a double from defender Stefan Beinlich to tame Hansa Rostock 3-1.

FRANCE

An inspired Thierry Henry helped Monaco beat promoted visitors Sochaux 4-1 to maintain their winning start to the French league season.

Two goals from Nigeria's Victor Ikpeba and one each from the outstanding Henry and Portuguese midfielder Francisco Da Costa sealed victory for Monaco, who lead the table on six points, ahead of Olympique Marseille and Girondins Bordeaux on goal

difference after two games.

Marseille beat European Champions' League hopefuls Metz 1-0 away with a goal from playmaker Jocelyn Gourvenec on the stroke of halftime, while Bordeaux won 3-2 at Le Havre.

SCOTLAND

Champions Celtic scored an own goal, missed two penalties and had a man sent off as they slumped to a dramatic 3-2 defeat at Aberdeen.

Jorg Albertz rescued Rangers from another costly stumble when his 90th minute penalty gave Dick Advocaat's team a 2-1 win over Motherwell.

RUSSIA

Premier division leaders Spartak Moscow suffered their first defeat in 16 matches when they went down 1-0 at Uralan Elista.

Midfielder Alexander Ignatyev scored in the first half for Uralan, who moved up to fifth in the standings. Spartak still have an eight-point lead over second-placed Rotor Volgograd.

East German doping trial starts

BERLIN (Reuters) - The systematic doping policy of former East Germany goes under the spotlight again with the second in a series of court trials opening today in Berlin.

Three trainers and two doctors once employed by Berlin sports club TSC go to court accused of having harmed young female swimmers by giving them banned drugs in the 1970s and 1980s.

A similar trial of six former East German swimming officials who worked for another Berlin club, Dynamo, started on March 18 in Berlin. Only one of those accused has testified so far and the trial should continue for several weeks.

More trials should follow since several leading members of the East German sports establishment involved not only in swimming but also in athletics and other sports are currently under investigation.

If convicted, the five going on trial from today face sentences of up to several years in jail.

The latest trial takes place after an explosion of doping scandals over the past month, most notably in the Tour de France cycling race.

"This proves that there still is organized doping, organized cheating," Germany's leading International Olympic Committee (IOC) member Thomas Bach told German sports magazine Kicker in an interview yesterday.

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Yankees win one for the Babe

Someday people will look back on this New York Yankees season and wonder if everything that happened really happened. They will wonder if the daily events involving this juggernaut were, in fact, fact or a dream.

When Sunday came and went, another page of near-fiction did as well.

It was the 50th anniversary of the death of Babe Ruth. So naturally, in the House That Ruth Built, the Yankees won on a home run.

And was it ever a Ruthian blast, a shot by Bernie Williams into the upper deck in right field. The solo home run came against Texas Rangers reliever Xavier Hernandez and ended the game, 6-5, for the Yankees with one out in the bottom of the ninth. It was the first time this season they had ended a game with a homer, the hit Ruth could almost receive credit for inventing. It was a moment not lost on the Yankees.

"He brought the home run into the game," Yankee Manager Joe Torre said. "To have it end with a home run, that's what you talk about when you think of Babe Ruth. That's who everyone is talking about when you talk about the home run race. They still talk about Ruth instead of Roger. Babe set the standards."

The Yankees are setting new ones this season. Their victory Sunday completed a remarkable homestand with a 10-1 record.

It gave them 90 victories in 120 games, matching the 1944 St. Louis Cardinals for fastest to that plateau. The Yankees have now held a lead in an all-time-record 45 consecutive games. After the 16-5 embarrassment of Saturday, they avoided their first back-to-back losses at the Stadium since the end of May.

In retrospect, with noted Ruth fanatic and build-alike David Wells on the Stadium mound, where he has not lost this season, there probably should have been no doubt as to who would prevail. A Yankees loss would have been tantamount to littering Ruth's grave.

Instead, the Yankees paid tasteful tribute to Ruth. Public address announcer Bob

Sheppard read a short eulogy as the organ strains of funeral music played in the background. A moment of silence was observed. They did not guzzle beers and gorge themselves on hot dogs, as was Ruth's occasional wont.

"Boomer was, I'm sure," David Cone said, laughing and obviously joking in reference to Wells. "Boomer tends to take those things real seriously."

Rather, Wells, his head bowed for almost a minute after Sheppard's address, stenciled Ruth's No. 3 onto the back of his cap.

He wears No. 33 in homage to Ruth and Sunday allowed a season-high three home runs.

"He was haunting us," Wells said, smiling. "He was haunting me."

This is the second time I've done something because of the Babe and it didn't turn out too good. I wore the cap [one of Ruth's] last year and got my butt kicked. Today, he took it a little easier on me. I got the no-decision."

Wells allowed all five Rangers runs on 10 hits in six innings. He could have caved in when the final run he allowed gave the Rangers a 5-4 lead in the fifth, but he battled and made sure his last inning of the day was scoreless.

Ramiro Mendoza and Mariano Rivera combined for three scoreless innings of relief, Rivera getting the win for pitching the ninth.

He could have been going for the save had the Yankees capitalized on a second-and-third, none-out situation in the eighth. But they left the bases loaded when Derek Jeter grounded out.

Somehow, though, it would have been inappropriate had the Yankees' final act Sunday been a reliever getting the final out. The home run was the right touch.

"We didn't plan it that way," Williams said, "but it turned out great." It also should be noted that Williams did not hit the only home run into the third deck in right field. Jeter hit a ball in the first inning that landed there as well, almost unheard of for a right-handed hitter. It was the first time, he said, he has ever hit a ball there, even in batting practice.

He had only one explanation for the location of the home run. "Babe Ruth," he said, "must have been blowing it out."

Sosa, Wood lead Cubs past Astros

HOUSTON (AP) — A Sammy Sosa homer and a dominating performance by Kerry Wood. That's often enough for the Chicago Cubs these days.

Sosa hit his 47th home run, tying Mark McGwire for the major league lead, and Wood struck out 11 in three innings. But it took pinch-hitter Manny Alexander's RBI single in the 11th inning to give the Cubs a 2-1 victory over the Houston Astros on Sunday.

Sosa's homer tied him with Juan Gonzalez of Texas for the major league RBIs lead at 119. That also matched Sosa's career high, accomplished in both 1995 and 1997.

"To tell the truth, I never think about a homer," Sosa said.

"I'm just thinking of the situation and what I've got to do when I go to the plate. My situation is different. When you're in the middle of a pennant race, you can't go up there thinking about home runs."

Wood, who struck out 20 against Houston with a one-hitter on May 6, allowed one run and three hits, walking two.

Sosa homered in the fourth, but Houston tied it in the fifth when Carl Everett doubled, advanced on a wild pitch and scored on Ricky Gutierrez's sacrifice fly. Gutierrez got the only hit off Wood on May 6.

Sosa had gone 17 at-bats without a homer since he hit two against San Francisco on Monday, tying McGwire at 46. McGwire regained the lead last Tuesday.

Brant Brown led off the 11th with a double off Jay Powell (4-5) but was caught in a rundown on Mickey Morandini's grounder. Mark Grace walked. Sosa moved up the runners with a grounder and Glenallen Hill was intentionally walked by Trevor Miller.

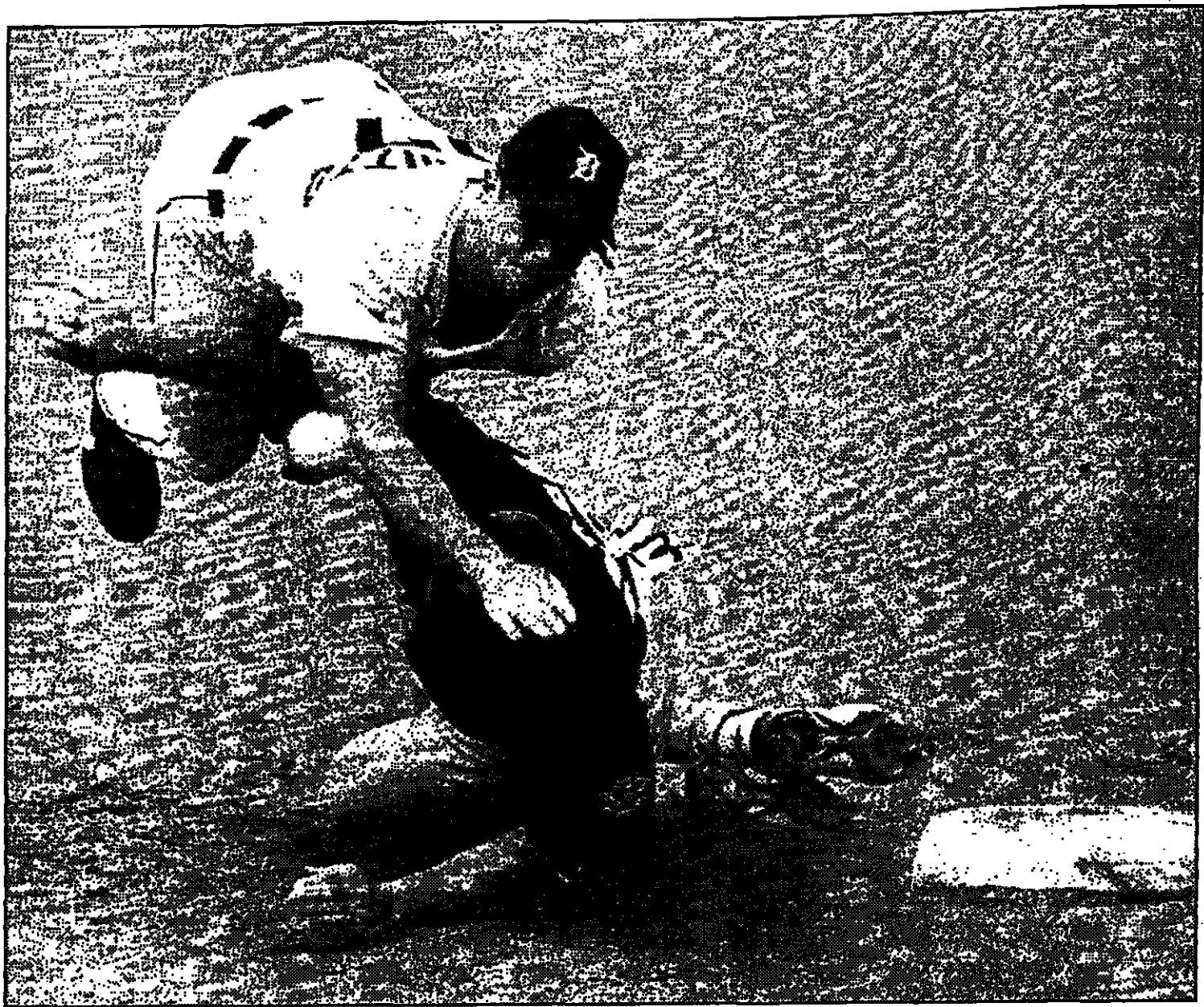
Alexander then singled to right, making a winner of Matt Karchner (1-0), who pitched two hitless innings. Rod Beck got three outs for his 36th save.

Reggie Sanders singled, doubled, tripled and scored four runs as host Cincinnati took advantage of the Montreal Expos' ragged play to get a series sweep.

Brett Tomko (11-8) had a pair of hits, scored twice and pitched seven innings to reach a Reds milestone. He's the first Cincinnati pitcher to win 11 games in each of his first two seasons since Art Fowler in 1954-55.

Sanders tripled, was hit by a pitch from Carl Pavano (4-6), doubled and singled in his four plate appearances in the first five innings. He scored each time, matching his career high, and came up short of the cycle when he flew out to the warning track in the seventh.

Pavano gave up six hits, three walks and five runs — four earned — in his shortest start since June 22.



TAKING TWO — Oakland runner Ed Sprague tries unsuccessfully to break up a Tigers' double play as 2B Frank Catalanotto fires to first. Detroit won 6-3.

Pirates 4, Cardinals 1
Mark McGwire remained stuck on 47 homers, and didn't walk, going 2-for-5 with two singles and three strikeouts in the Cardinals' loss.

Pirates starter Francisco Cordova (11-10) gave up a two-out single to McGwire with none on the first, struck him out with two on in the third, fanned him to start the fifth and gave up a two-out single in the seventh — McGwire's 5,000th career at-bat.

Matt Morris (3-3) allowed three runs, and eight hits in eight innings.

Phillies 8, Rockies 7
Bobby Estelle hit his first career grand slam and Bobby Abreu added a two-run shot as the Philadelphia Phillies held on to beat host Colorado.

Mark Portugal (7-3) pitched five innings and allowed two runs, one earned, striking out four to earn the victory. Mark Leiter pitched the ninth for his 22nd save.

Pinch-hitter Jeff Reed hit a grand slam for the Rockies. Colorado starter Jamey Wright (7-11) lasted three innings and gave up five hits and seven runs. He was trying to win three straight starts for the first time in his career.

Padres 4, Brewers 0 (1st)
Kevin Brown pitched a one-hitter for his third shutout this year and struck out 11 to match his career high as host San Diego won the first game of a double-header.

Jerome Burnitz singled with two out in the seventh to break up yet another attempt at the Padres' first-ever no-hitter.

Brown (15-4) was coming off a 3-2 loss to the Marlins last Monday, which snapped his club-record 11-game winning streak.

Milwaukee left-hander Rafael

Roque (0-1), who was called up from Triple-A Louisville to make his second career start, took the loss.

The Brewers rallied to win the second game as Burnitz hit a two-run homer and Geoff Jenkins had a solo shot.

Giants 3, Marlins 2
Orel Hershiser won for the first time in six starts and Jeff Kent had two run-scoring doubles as host San Francisco completed a three-game sweep.

Hershiser (9-8) survived 10 hits and a walk, allowing two runs in six innings with six strikeouts. He had been 0-1 with four no-decisions since July 15.

Robb Nen got three outs for his 31st save.

Dodgers 1, Braves 0
Eric Young led off the eighth inning with his fourth homer of the season and second in two days, leading Los Angeles to victory.

Just five days after surrendering five runs and 11 hits to the Braves in his first career start against them, Darren Dreifort allowed just one hit in seven innings.

Scott Radinsky (5-5) pitched a scoreless eighth, and Jeff Shaw finished with a perfect ninth for his 36th save.

Braves starter Denny Neagle (11-11) allowed seven hits, struck out four and walked four in his fifth complete game this season.

Diamondbacks 6, Mets 1
Omar Daal, fast becoming the young ace of the Arizona pitching staff, limited visiting New York to two hits in eight innings and Travis Lee broke out of a slump with his 20th home run.

Mets' pitchers walked 10 batters and New York committed two errors, one by second baseman Carlos Baerga with the bases loaded in the fifth, to drop a half-game behind Chicago in the NL wild-card chase.

Hideo Nomo (5-10) gave up four runs, three earned, and allowed just three hits in five innings but walked five, two apiece in the first and fifth innings.

American League
Yankees 6, Rangers 5
Bernie Williams hit a solo home run into the upper deck with one out in the ninth inning and the New York Yankees won their 90th game.

At 90-30, the Yankees joined the 1944 St. Louis Cardinals as the only teams in major league history to reach that win total in their first 120 games.

New York finished 10-1 on its homestand, improving to 48-9 at home. Williams connected off Xavier Hernandez (5-2) for his fourth hit, making a winner of Mariano Rivera (2-0) retired Will Clark on a bases-loaded grounder to end the top of the ninth.

White Sox 5, Mariners 3
Ray Durham homered and drove in three runs as the host White Sox won for the eighth time in 12 games.

Ken Griffey Jr., who hit his 42nd home run Saturday, went 0-for-4 as Seattle lost for the fourth time in the last five games.

Keith Foulke (3-1) pitched an inning of one-hit relief, and Bill Simas struck out the side in the ninth for his 15th save.

Jeff Fassero (10-9) was the loser. Blue Jays 6, Angels 4
Chris Carpenter (8-6), who didn't allow a hit until Jim Edmonds singled leading off the fifth, got a 5-0 lead and held off the visiting Angels on four runs and 10 hits in 8½ innings.

Paul Quantrill, pitching despite a stiff back, got the final out for his fourth save, retiring Gary Disarcina on a bouncer.

Twins 6, Red Sox 3
Matt Lawton tied a career high

with four hits and Eric Milton (7-9) started with five hitless innings as visiting Minnesota built a 6-0 lead.

Milton gave up two runs and three hits in six-plus innings. Rick Aguilera, the Twins' fifth pitcher, got three outs for his 30th save in 38 chances.

Steve Avery (8-5) was tagged for six runs and nine hits in three-plus innings.

Devil Rays 8, Royals 3
Wade Boggs and John Flaherty each drove in two runs, but visiting Tampa Bay still became the first team eliminated from division-title contention.

The expansion Devil Rays, who won back-to-back games for the first time since July 29-31, are 48-73 and trail the New York Yankees by 42 1/2 games with 41 to play.

Tigers 6, Athletics 4
Bryce Florie (6-6) struck out a career-high 10 and allowed five hits in 8½ innings, the longest out of his career.

Sean Runyan came in and allowed a three-run homer to Matt Stairs off the facing of the roof in right field before Todd Jones got two outs for his 20th save. Mike Oquist (6-10) was the loser.

Indians 5, Orioles 3
Sandy Alomar shook off a season-long slump with a game-tying double, and David Bell hit a go-ahead sacrifice fly in the seventh as host Cleveland avoided a four-game sweep.

Eric Davis was 0-for-3 with a walk and three strikeouts, ending his hitting streak at 30 games. Baltimore loaded the bases with two outs in the ninth before Mike Jackson retired Rafael Palmeiro on a flyout for his 29th save.

Jaret Wright (10-7) allowed three runs and seven hits in seven innings. Scott Kamieniecki (2-5) was the loser.

MAJOR LEAGUE LEADERS

NATIONAL LEAGUE

BATTING — Olerud, New York, .352; Bichette, Colorado, .345; LWalker, Colorado, .340; Kendall, Pittsburgh, .335; VGuerrero, Montreal, .334; Chones, Atlanta, .323; Bjornson, St. Louis, .323; Gwynn, San Diego, .323.

RUNS — Chones, Atlanta, 100; Sosa, Chicago, 96; Biggio, Houston, 96; Bagwell, Houston, 93; McGwire, St. Louis, 92; Glanville, Philadelphia, 90; GVAughn, San Diego, 89.

RBI — Sosa, Chicago, 119; Castilla, Colorado, 109; Alou, Houston, 109; Bichette, Colorado, 107; McGwire, St. Louis, 106; Galaraga, Atlanta, 100; Chones, Atlanta, 94; GVAughn, San Diego, 94.

HITS — Bichette, Colorado, 177; VGuerrero, Montreal, 159; Glanville, Philadelphia, 158; Castilla, Colorado, 157; Biggio, Houston, 157; Chones, Atlanta, 152; DeBell, Houston, 152.

HOME RUNS — Sosa, Chicago, 47; McGwire, St. Louis, 47; GVAughn, San Diego, 39; Galaraga, Atlanta, 38; Castilla, Colorado, 36; Alou, Houston, 35; HRodriguez, Chicago, 30.

STOLEN BASES — Womack, Pittsburgh, 48; Biggio, Houston, 39; Renteria, Florida, 38; Ecyong, Los Angeles, 35; Floyd, Florida, 24; QVeras, San Diego, 21; McRae, New York, 20; DeShields, St. Louis, 20; Bonds, San Francisco, 20.

PITCHING (14 Decisions) — Glavine, Atlanta, 16-4, .800, 2.35; KBrown, San Diego, 15-4, .789, 2.46; ALeiter, New York, 11-4, .733, 2.36; Ashby, San Diego, 16-6, .727, 2.50; GMaddux, Atlanta, 15-6, .714, 1.67; Millwood, Atlanta, 14-6, .700, 4.41; Trachsel, Chicago, 12-6, .687, 4.21; Tapani, Chicago, 14-7, .667, 4.59; RReed, New York, 12-7, .667, 2.87.

STRIKEOUTS — Schilling, Philadelphia, 233; Wood, Chicago, 204; KBrown, San Diego, 198; GMaddux, Atlanta, 157; Dreifort, Los Angeles, 153; Reynolds, Houston, 151; Stottmeyer, St. Louis, 147.

SAVES — Hoffman, San Diego, 39; Beck, Chicago, 36; Shaw, Los Angeles, 36; Nen, San Francisco, 31; Urbina, Montreal, 26; JFranco, New York, 25; BWagner, Houston, 23.

AMERICAN LEAGUE

BATTING — BWilliams, New York, .355; TWalker, Minnesota, .340; MVAughn, Boston, .334; DJeter, New York, .328; IRodriguez, Texas, .326; Segui, Seattle, .326; Garciaparra, Boston, .324.

RUNS — Griffey Jr, Seattle, 98; DJeter, New York, 94; ARodriguez, Seattle, 93; Durham, Chicago, 92; Knoblauch, New York, 90; Edmonds, Anaheim, 89; JValentin, Boston, 87.

RBI — JGonzalez, Texas, 119; Belle, Chicago, 105; RPalmeiro, Baltimore, 104; Griffey Jr, Seattle, 101; ARodriguez, Seattle, 99; MRamirez, Cleveland, 99; Garciaparra, Boston, 96.

HITS — ARodriguez, Seattle, 158; DJeter, New York, 152; MVAughn, Boston, 151; Offerman, Kansas City, 149; O'Neill, New York, 148; Higginson, Detroit, 146; GAnderson, Anaheim, 146.

HOME RUNS — Griffey Jr, Seattle, 42; RPalmeiro, Baltimore, 37; ARodriguez, Seattle, 36; Belle, Chicago, 35; JGonzalez, Texas, 33; MVAughn, Boston, 32; Canseco, Toronto, 32.

STOLEN BASES — Henderson, Oakland, 50; Lofton, Cleveland, 38; Stewart, Toronto, 36; ARodriguez, Seattle, 36; BLHunter, Detroit, 34; Offerman, Kansas City, 34; TGoodwin, Texas, 31; Nixon, Minnesota, 31.

PITCHING (14 Decisions) — DWells, New York, 15-2, .882, 3.44; Cone, New York, 17-4, .810, 3.46; PMartinez, Boston, 15-4, .789, 2.91; Wakefield, Boston, 14-5, .737, 4.46; Pettitte, New York, 14-6, .700, 3.65; Clemens, Toronto, 14-6, .700, 3.05; Rogers, Oakland, 11-5, .687, 3.12.

STRIKEOUTS — RJohanson, Seattle, 213; PMartinez, Boston, 186; Clemens, Toronto, 186; CFlinley, Anaheim, 166; Cone, New York, 153; Erickson, Baltimore, 139; Colon, Cleveland, 134; Sele, Texas, 134.

SAVES — Gordon, Boston, 34; Percival, Anaheim, 33; MRivera, New York, 32; Wetteland, Texas, 32; Aguilera, Minnesota, 30; MJackson, Cleveland, 29; RMyers, Toronto, 28.

Wild Card Standings

National League	W	L	Pct.	GB
Chicago	66	54	.548	—
New York	66	55	.545	1
San Francisco	66	58	.532	2
Los Angeles	62	62	.500	6

American League	W	L	Pct.	GB
Boston	71	58	.557	—
Texas	65	67	.533	6 1/2
Baltimore	65	58	.528	7

National League	W	L	Pct.	GB
Atlanta	62	62	.500	—
New York	66	55	.545	1 1/2
Philadelphia	66	62	.517	2 1/2
Montreal	49	75	.395	33
Florida	44	80	.355	38

Central Division	W	L	Pct.	GB
Chicago	68	56	.548	—
St. Louis	59	63	.484	16
Minnesota	59	65	.476	17
Cincinnati	56	68	.452	20
Pittsburgh	56	68	.452	20

West Division	W	L	Pct.	GB
San Diego	60	64	.484	—
San Francisco	66	58	.532	14
Los Angeles	62	62	.500	18
Colorado	57	67	.460	23
Arizona	46	77	.374	33 1/2

American League	W	L	Pct.	GB
New York	60	30	.667	—
Boston	71	58	.557	19 1/2
Baltimore	65	58	.528	26 1/2
Toronto	62	61	.504	29 1/2
Tampa Bay	48	73	.397	42 1/2

Central Division	W	L	Pct.	GB
Cleveland	67	55	.549	—
Kansas City	55	68	.447	12 1/2
Chicago	55	66	.455	13 1/2
Minnesota	54	68	.443	15
Detroit	54	73	.397	18 1/2

West Division	W	L	Pct.	GB
Anaheim	66	57	.537	—
Texas	65	57	.533	1
Seattle	55	66	.455	10 1/2
Oakland	54	69	.439	12 1/2

Chasing Maris

Chasing baseball's top home run hitters chasing Roger Maris' record of 61 home runs in 1961

Through team's 122nd game
Mark McGwire: 47 homers.
Roger Maris: 48 homers.

Through team's 124th game
Sammy Sosa: 47 homers.
Roger Maris: 49 homers.

Through team's 121st game
Ken Griffey Jr.: 42 homers.
Roger Maris: 48 homers.

Rafter beats Sampras for 2nd-straight tour win

MASON (AP) — Patrick Rafter of Australia won his second straight title Sunday, beating American Pete Sampras 1-6, 7-6 (7-2), 6-4 in the \$2.45 million ATP Championship.

It was the fourth victory this year for Rafter, the reigning U.S. Open champion. He is the first Australian to win four titles in a year since Rod Laver did it in 1975.

Rafter, ranked third in the world, has reached the finals of four tournaments this season, also winning in India, the Netherlands and last week in Toronto. He has been the hottest player on tour recently, winning 10 consecutive matches — including six against top-15 opponents.

Sampras, who won the ATP Championship in 1992 and last year, had not lost to Rafter since their first meeting in 1993, beating him eight

straight times. The loss prevented Sampras from regaining the No. 1 ranking that he lost to Marcelo Rios of Chile a week ago.

The first point of Sunday's match hinted at how the day would go for Rafter, who stumbled early. Sampras won the point when his return hit near the top of the net and dribbled over, well out of Rafter's reach.

When Sampras broke Rafter in the second game with a passing shot, all that remained was for him to serve out the set. But when Sampras broke Rafter again in game six with pinpoint placements, Rafter handed his racket to a ball boy and traded places with him.

The crowd roared, and the stunt added a moment of levity, but it didn't halt the inevitable. The first set was over in 27 minutes.

Rafter said he altered his strategy after the dismal first set.

"I started serving to the forehand more. He wasn't quite as strong on that side," Rafter said.

Early in the second set, Sampras had Rafter off balance, moving in the wrong direction or diving at perfect shot placements. But Rafter revived, bringing the crowd to its feet by winning a spirited exchange in game nine, twice taking Sampras to set point in game 12, and then blitzing the tiebreaker 7-2.

From there, play slowed noticeably as the humid, 91 F (33 C) afternoon dragged on, and Rafter wore down Sampras, winning the match on a serve that Sampras clearly thought was out.

CRITICS' CHOICE

CLASSICAL MUSIC

MICHAEL AJZENSTADT

Choral-music lovers can enjoy a special concert at the 18th consecutive Zimriya (World Assembly of Choirs) in Jerusalem tonight at 8:30 at the Jerusalem International Convention Center, with choirs from Hong Kong, the Philippines, the US, Slovakia and Israel singing choral works by Poulenc, Hindemith, Vaughan Williams, Israeli compositions by Meir Mindel and Aharon Harlap, as well as hassidic songs and jazz music.

KITE FESTIVAL

HELEN KAYE

Kites, kites and more kites today at Affonada, the 15th kite festival at the Israel Museum in Jerusalem. Start with kite-building workshops for the whole family from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., then, in the afternoon from 4 to 8 p.m., more workshops and a kite-flying featuring kites from all over the world. These include a huge 25-meter long octopus kite, power kites, acrobat kites, funny kites and surprises. There's also a kite-flying by local aficionados, and if you get tired of looking skyward, there's fun on the ground as well. For the whole family. Take hats and drink.

FILM

ADINA HOFFMAN

★ ★ ★ THE REAL BLONDE — Tom DiCillo is a satirist with sharp claws and a soft heart. In his minor though delightful new comedy of manners, the independent American writer/director manages to extend a fairly scathing critique of high-gloss show-biz sham at the same time that



Elizabeth Berkley stars in 'The Real Blonde.'

he pays tribute to that endangered notion, truth, and forgives in the long run even his most foolish characters the bulk of their outrageous foibles. Adopting a kind of scaled-down Altmanesque approach, he creates a web of loosely linked characters who move in and out of the margins of the slick, stupid worlds of fashion photography and soap-opera acting. With Matthew Modine, Catherine Keener, Elizabeth Berkley and in small, funny cameos, Kathleen Turner, Christopher Lloyd and Mario Thomas. (Children under 17 not admitted without an adult.)

RADIO

VOICE OF MUSIC

6:05 Clarke: Suite in D major for trumpet and organ; Bach/Walton: The Wise Virgins (ballet suite) for Orchestra; Handel: Suites nos 1 and 2 from Water Music; 7:07 Verdi: Germans' aria from La Traviata; Kullback: Suite for piano and orchestra; 8:00 Schumann: Nachtsucke (4) for piano op 15; Tchaikovsky: Romeo and Juliet; 8:05 Brahms: Intermezzo from op 116; Brahms: Piano Concerto no 1; 9:05 Mozart: Serenade no 10 for Winds "Gran Partita" K361; Brahms: Piano Concerto no 2 op 83; Mendelssohn: Overture for La Fida Giocosa; Smetana: Piano Trio in G minor op 15 (New Czech); 12:00 Light Classics — ballet music by Weber, Tchaikovsky, Delibes, Rossini, Schubert, Adam and Folia; 13:00 Artist of the Week — Alban Berg: Quartet; Richard Strauss: 4; Schostakovich: Quartet no 4; 14:00 Music from Near and Far; 15:00 From the Recording Studio — Chad Kroeger, piano, bass, French Suite no 5; Schumann: Klavierkonzert op 15; Beethoven: Quintet for Piano and Winds op 16; 16:00 My Concert

18:00 New CDs — Berg: Lyric Suite for String Quartet; Bach: Cantata no 132; Early Irish music; Scarlatti: 2 Sonatas; Menotti: Martin's Lia; 20:05 The London Symphony Orchestra / Sir Colin Davis, conductor; Sibelius: Kullervo op 7; Sibelius: Symphony no 7 op 105; Schumann: Nachtsucke (4) for piano op 15; Tchaikovsky: Romeo and Juliet

RADIOWEST

CNN news on the hour followed by RadioWest local news; 6:00 Morning Drive (until 9:00); 6:30 News with David Stack; 7:30 English Newspaper Headlines; 7:45 Sports Update with Denny Gower; 8:00 Lior's Trust Financial Update; 8:30 Morning News — Music with Sharon Wagner; 12:00 Premium Time — Centurian Insurance; 12:30 Windows on the World; 13:30 Pick of the Hits with Donna Abraham; 15:00 Afternoon Drive (until 19:00) — with Aaron Katzman; 17:45 Sports Update with Denny Gower; 19:00 Classic Rock; 20:45 Jerusalem Post Sports —

tomorrow's sports tonight — with Joe Hollman and Or Lewis; 21:00 Barbara Diamond "One on One" — Interview Show; 22:00 WestRock — Michael Cohen; 1:00 Late Night Music

BBC WORLD SERVICE

6:00 News; 6:05 World Business Report; 6:15 Sports Roundup; 6:30 The World Today; 7:00 The World Today; 7:30 Outlook; 7:45 Take Five; 8:00 The World Today; 8:30 English Newspaper Headlines; 9:00 News; 9:15 Insight; 9:30 Shadow Boxing On The Path To Nirvana; 10:00 News; 10:15 Off the Shelf: Anna Karenina, part 12; 10:30 The World Today; 10:45 The Late Show; 11:00 News; 11:10 Pause For Thought; 11:15 Musical Of The Week; 12:00 News; 12:05 World Business Report; 12:15 Stories From The Bible; 12:30 Looking At Literature: Much

Ado About Nothing; 13:00 News and Sports Roundup; 13:30 News on Screen; 14:00 News; 14:30 News; 14:45 News; 15:00 News; 15:05 World Business Report; 15:15 Sports Roundup; 15:30 The World Today; 16:00 News; 16:05 Outlook; 16:30 Multitrack Hit List; 16:45 News; 16:55 News; 17:00 Discovery — A Confederate soldier goes AWOL and joins a band of outlaws; 17:15 News; 17:30 Shadow Boxing On The Path To Nirvana; 18:00 News; 18:05 World Business Report; 18:15 Sports Roundup; 18:30 The World Today; 19:00 News; 19:05 Outlook; 19:30 Multitrack Hit List; 19:45 News; 19:55 News; 20:00 Discovery — A Confederate soldier goes AWOL and joins a band of outlaws; 20:15 News; 20:30 Shadow Boxing On The Path To Nirvana; 20:45 News; 20:50 World Business Report; 20:55 Sports Roundup; 21:00 News; 21:05 Outlook; 21:30 Multitrack Hit List; 21:45 News; 21:55 News; 22:00 Discovery — A Confederate soldier goes AWOL and joins a band of outlaws; 22:15 News; 22:30 Shadow Boxing On The Path To Nirvana; 22:45 News; 22:50 World Business Report; 22:55 Sports Roundup; 23:00 News; 23:05 Outlook; 23:30 Multitrack Hit List; 23:45 News; 23:55 News; 24:00 Discovery — A Confederate soldier goes AWOL and joins a band of outlaws; 24:15 News; 24:30 Shadow Boxing On The Path To Nirvana; 24:45 News; 24:50 World Business Report; 24:55 Sports Roundup; 25:00 News; 25:05 Outlook; 25:30 Multitrack Hit List; 25:45 News; 25:55 News; 26:00 Discovery — A Confederate soldier goes AWOL and joins a band of outlaws; 26:15 News; 26:30 Shadow Boxing On The Path To Nirvana; 26:45 News; 26:50 World Business Report; 26:55 Sports Roundup; 27:00 News; 27:05 Outlook; 27:30 Multitrack Hit List; 27:45 News; 27:55 News; 28:00 Discovery — A Confederate soldier goes AWOL and joins a band of outlaws; 28:15 News; 28:30 Shadow Boxing On The Path To Nirvana; 28:45 News; 28:50 World Business Report; 28:55 Sports Roundup; 29:00 News; 29:05 Outlook; 29:30 Multitrack Hit List; 29:45 News; 29:55 News; 30:00 Discovery — A Confederate soldier goes AWOL and joins a band of outlaws; 30:15 News; 30:30 Shadow Boxing On The Path To Nirvana; 30:45 News; 30:50 World Business Report; 30:55 Sports Roundup; 31:00 News; 31:05 Outlook; 31:30 Multitrack Hit List; 31:45 News; 31:55 News; 32:00 Discovery — A Confederate soldier goes AWOL and joins a band of outlaws; 32:15 News; 32:30 Shadow Boxing On The Path To Nirvana; 32:45 News; 32:50 World Business Report; 32:55 Sports Roundup; 33:00 News; 33:05 Outlook; 33:30 Multitrack Hit List; 33:45 News; 33:55 News; 34:00 Discovery — A Confederate soldier goes AWOL and joins a band of outlaws; 34:15 News; 34:30 Shadow Boxing On The Path To Nirvana; 34:45 News; 34:50 World Business Report; 34:55 Sports Roundup; 35:00 News; 35:05 Outlook; 35:30 Multitrack Hit List; 35:45 News; 35:55 News; 36:00 Discovery — A Confederate soldier goes AWOL and joins a band of outlaws; 36:15 News; 36:30 Shadow Boxing On The Path To Nirvana; 36:45 News; 36:50 World Business Report; 36:55 Sports Roundup; 37:00 News; 37:05 Outlook; 37:30 Multitrack Hit List; 37:45 News; 37:55 News; 38:00 Discovery — A Confederate soldier goes AWOL and joins a band of outlaws; 38:15 News; 38:30 Shadow Boxing On The Path To Nirvana; 38:45 News; 38:50 World Business Report; 38:55 Sports Roundup; 39:00 News; 39:05 Outlook; 39:30 Multitrack Hit List; 39:45 News; 39:55 News; 40:00 Discovery — A Confederate soldier goes AWOL and joins a band of outlaws; 40:15 News; 40:30 Shadow Boxing On The Path To Nirvana; 40:45 News; 40:50 World Business Report; 40:55 Sports Roundup; 41:00 News; 41:05 Outlook; 41:30 Multitrack Hit List; 41:45 News; 41:55 News; 42:00 Discovery — A Confederate soldier goes AWOL and joins a band of outlaws; 42:15 News; 42:30 Shadow Boxing On The Path To Nirvana; 42:45 News; 42:50 World Business Report; 42:55 Sports Roundup; 43:00 News; 43:05 Outlook; 43:30 Multitrack Hit List; 43:45 News; 43:55 News; 44:00 Discovery — A Confederate soldier goes AWOL and joins a band of outlaws; 44:15 News; 44:30 Shadow Boxing On The Path To Nirvana; 44:45 News; 44:50 World Business Report; 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